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HUMAN GTP-RHO BINDING PROTEIN 2

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application serial no. 09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001, and also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 365(c) to international patent application nos. PCT/US01/00663, PCT/US01/00664, PCT/US01/00665, PCT/US01/00666, PCT/US01/00667, PCT/US01/00668, PCT/US01/00669, PCT/US01/00670, all filed January 30, 2001, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to human GRBP2 for GTP-Rho binding protein 2. More specifically, the invention provides isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding human GRBP2, fragments thereof, vectors and host cells, human GRBP2 polypeptides, antibodies, transgenic cells and non-human organisms, and diagnostic, therapeutic, and investigational methods of using the same.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Members of the Rho family of small GTPases the transduction of extracellular signals from the cell membrane to downstream effector molecules in the cytoplasm and nucleus and are highly conserved among eukaryotes (reviewed by Takai Y. et al., *Physiol. Rev.* 18:153-208 (2001); Hall A., *Science* 279:509-514 (1998)). This class of signaling molecules primarily affects activities associated with the actin cytoskeleton, but can also influence gene expression.

Like other members of this family, the small GTPase Rho exists in two states: an active GTP-bound form that is preferentially associated with membrane-bound structures, and an inactive GDP-bound form that is largely found in the cytoplasm (reviewed by Bishop A.L. and Hall A, *Biochem. J.* 348:241-255 (2000)). The active form of Rho is capable of interacting with a diverse set of effector molecules that includes protein kinases and adaptor molecules that specifically result in changes in the actin cytoskeleton. Hydrolysis of GTP by Rho converts the protein into an inactive molecule that no longer binds its target effector proteins. Thus, the cycling of Rho between active and inactive forms serves as a 'molecular switch' that controls the timing and duration of effector signaling and/or activation.

The outcomes of Rho activation are many-fold, but are mainly associated with changes in the actin cytoskeleton. For instance, Rho activity has been implicated in the processes of cell adhesion, determination of cell polarity, and cell migration in epithelia (Assoian R.K. and Zhu X., *Curr. Opin. Cell*

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Biol. 9:93 (1997); Braga V.M.M. et al., *J. Cell Biol.* 137:1421 (1997); Schmitz A.A. et al., *Exp. Cell Res.* 261:1-12 (2000)). It is therefore not surprising that overexpression of Rho family members has been

5 associated with cell transformation and tumors in human patients (Ridley A.J., *Int. J. Biochem. Cell Biol.* 29:1225-12259 (1997); Aznar S. and Lacal. J.C., *Cancer Lett.* 165:1-10 (2001)). Other cellular processes such as neurite retraction and cell rounding in cultured

10 neural cells (Kozma R. et al., *Mol. Cell Biol.* 17:1201 (1997)), cytokinesis (Prokopenko S. N. et al., *J. Cell Biol.* 148:843-848 (2000)), and phagocytosis (Caron E. and Hall A., *Science* 282:1717-1721 (1998)) require Rho activity. Moreover, Rho-dependent activation of gene

15 expression has also been demonstrated (Marinissen J.M. et al., *Genes Dev.* 15:535-553 (2001)). Specifically, it has been shown that Rho can stimulate c-jun expression via a direct kinase cascade that results in the activation of ERK6, a member of the MAPK family of

20 kinases.

Currently, three classes of downstream targets of Rho have been described. Class I effectors, including protein kinase N (PKN; REF), rhophilin (also called GRBP1; Watanabe G. et al., *Science* 271:645-648

25 (1996)), and rhotekin (Reid T. et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:13558-13560 (1996)), share a common Rho-binding region termed the HR1 motif (see below), which interacts with amino acids 23-40 of Rho. Unlike PKN, which functions as a serine/threonine kinase,

30 rhophilin/GRBP1 and rhotekin do not possess kinase activity. Rather, these proteins function as adaptor proteins that are linked directly or indirectly to the cytoskeletal scaffold. Interestingly, mouse

rhophilin/GRBP1 is expressed highly in testis and is localized to the sperm flagellum, suggesting that it may be required for sperm motility. In addition to an N-terminal HR1 motif, rhophilin/GRBP1 contains a C-terminal PDZ domain that specifically binds to a novel protein, ropporin, which shares homology with the regulatory subunit of type II cAMP-dependent protein kinase (Fujita A. et al., *J. Cell Sci.* 113:103-112 (2000)).

- 10 Rho-associated coiled-coil-forming protein kinase (ROCK) and its isoforms are the primary members of the Class II effectors of Rho. ROCK interacts with Rho via two distinct regions corresponding to amino acids 23-45 and 75-92 (Fujisawa K. et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:18943-18949 (1998)). ROCK has been shown to inhibit myosin phosphatase while inducing phosphorylation of myosin light chain (MLC). Class III effectors of Rho are typified by citron/citron kinase (CRIK). CRIK belongs to the myotonic dystrophy kinase family and binds only to amino acids 57-92 of Rho. The CRIK gene encodes two protein isoforms, a 240kD polypeptide with both kinase and Rho-binding domains and a shorter protein that contains only the kinase domain (Di Cunto F. et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:29706-29711 (1998)). Interestingly, the CRIK gene is expressed at high levels only in brain and testis, suggesting that the protein plays a specialized function(s) in these differentiated tissues.
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- Given a likely role for GRBP1 as an adaptor protein that interacts with Rho and with elements of the actin cytoskeleton, and its potential role as a proto-oncogene/oncogene, there is a need to identify and to characterize additional human forms of GRBP.
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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention solves these and other needs in the art by providing isolated nucleic acids that encode a novel human GTP-Rho binding protein,
5 human GRBP2, and fragments thereof.

In other aspects, the invention provides vectors for propagating and expressing the nucleic acids of the present invention, host cells comprising the nucleic acids and vectors of the present invention,
10 proteins, protein fragments, and protein fusions of human GRBP2, and antibodies thereto.

The invention further provides pharmaceutical formulations of the nucleic acids, proteins, and antibodies of the present invention.

15 In other aspects, the invention provides transgenic cells and non-human organisms comprising human GRBP2 nucleic acids, and transgenic cells and non-human organisms with targeted disruption of the endogenous orthologue of human GRBP2.

20 The invention additionally provides diagnostic, investigational, and therapeutic methods based on the GRBP2 nucleic acids, proteins, and antibodies of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The above and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like characters refer to like parts throughout,
30 and in which:

FIGS. 1A - 1C schematize the protein domain structure of human GRBP2, with FIG. 1A showing the overall structure of GRBP2, FIG. 1B showing an alignment of HR1 domain in GRBP2 with similar motifs, and FIG. 1C showing an alignment of the PDZ domain in GRBP2 with similar motifs;

FIG. 2 is a map showing the genomic structure of human GRBP2 encoded at chromosome 19q12, and further depicts the alternative forms of GRBP2 transcript; and

FIG. 3 presents the nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequences of the full-length human GRBP2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Mining the sequence of the human genome for novel human genes, the present inventors have identified human GRBP2, a putative adaptor protein that interacts with both the small GTPase Rho as well as elements of the actin cytoskeleton, and that plays a potential role as a proto-oncogene/oncogene.

The newly isolated gene product shares certain protein domains and an overall structural organization with mouse rhophilin/Grbp1. Moreover, the sequence identities between the two proteins within these regions are higher than the average overall amino acid identity of 46 %. However, we can conclude that the human gene is not the ortholog of mouse Grbp1 because we have identified a distinct mouse cDNA (GenBank accession: BAB23615) that is more similar to our human cDNA (85 % overall amino acid identity). We therefore refer to the corresponding mouse gene as Grbp2 and our human cDNA as GRBP2. The shared structural features of human GRBP2 and murine Grbp2 to mouse Grbp1 strongly imply that GRBP2 and Grbp2 play a

role similar to that of mouse Grbp1 as an adaptor protein between Rho and the cytoskeletal scaffold, and is a potential proto-oncogene.

Like mouse Grbp1 and Grbp2, human GRBP2
5 contains HR1 and PDZ domains, as schematized in FIG. 1:
the HR1 domain functions as a Rho-binding region; the
PDZ domain mediates protein-protein interactions with
other PDZ domain-containing proteins. In human GRBP2,
the HR1 domain occurs at residues 38 - 98, while the
10 PDZ domain occurs at residues 513 - 594.

FIG. 2 shows the genomic organization of
human GRBP2.

At the top is shown the two bacterial
artificial chromosomes (BACs), with GenBank accession
15 numbers, that span the human GRBP2 locus. One of the
genome-derived single-exon probes first used to
demonstrate expression from this locus, as further
described, *inter alia*, in commonly owned and copending
patent application no. 09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001,
20 the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by
reference in its entirety, is shown below the BACs and
labeled "500". The 500 bp probe includes sequence
drawn solely from exon 11.

As shown in FIG. 2, human GRBP2, encoding a
25 protein of 686 amino acids, comprises 15 exons
(exons 1 - 15). Predicted molecular weight, prior to
any post-translational modification, is 77.0 kD. An
alternative form of GRBP2 transcript has been reported
to contain a different 5' exon and to lack exon 1 of
30 our current clone (WO 01/05970; Genbank accession no.
AX077672.1). However, our data suggest that it is a
minor form of GRBP2 (see Example 3, below). Conceptual
translation of this minor form transcript results in an

N-terminally truncated protein of 666 amino acids (the first 14 residues of which are from exon "0").

As further discussed in the examples herein, expression of GRBP2 was assessed using hybridization to genome-derived single exon microarrays, northern blot assay, and RT-PCR. Microarray analysis of exons 2, 3, 6, 11, 15 showed universal expression in all ten tissues tested. This was confirmed by northern blot assay.

As more fully described below, the present invention provides isolated nucleic acids that encode human GRBP2 and fragments thereof. The invention further provides vectors for propagation and expression of the nucleic acids of the present invention, host cells comprising the nucleic acids and vectors of the present invention, proteins, protein fragments, and protein fusions of the present invention, and antibodies specific for all or any one of the isoforms. The invention provides pharmaceutical formulations of the nucleic acids, proteins, and antibodies of the present invention. The invention further provides transgenic cells and non-human organisms comprising human GRBP2 nucleic acids, and transgenic cells and non-human organisms with targeted disruption of the endogenous orthologue of human GRBP2. The invention additionally provides diagnostic, investigational, and therapeutic methods based on the human GRBP2 nucleic acids, proteins, and antibodies of the present invention.

DEFINITIONS

As used herein, "nucleic acid" includes polynucleotides having natural nucleotides in native 5'-3' phosphodiester linkage - e.g., DNA or RNA - as well as polynucleotides that have nonnatural nucleotide analogues, nonnative internucleoside bonds, or both, so long as the nonnatural polynucleotide is capable of sequence-discriminating basepairing under experimentally desired conditions. Unless otherwise specified, the term "nucleic acid" includes any topological conformation; the term thus explicitly comprehends single-stranded, double-stranded, partially duplexed, triplexed, hairpinned, circular, and padlocked conformations.

As used herein, an "isolated nucleic acid" is a nucleic acid molecule that exists in a physical form that is nonidentical to any nucleic acid molecule of identical sequence as found in nature; "isolated" does not require, although it does not prohibit, that the nucleic acid so described has itself been physically removed from its native environment.

For example, a nucleic acid can be said to be "isolated" when it includes nucleotides and/or internucleoside bonds not found in nature. When instead composed of natural nucleosides in phosphodiester linkage, a nucleic acid can be said to be "isolated" when it exists at a purity not found in nature, where purity can be adjudged with respect to the presence of nucleic acids of other sequence, with respect to the presence of proteins, with respect to the presence of lipids, or with respect the presence of any other component of a biological cell, or when the nucleic acid lacks sequence that flanks an otherwise

identical sequence in an organism's genome, or when the nucleic acid possesses sequence not identically present in nature.

As so defined, "isolated nucleic acid"

5 includes nucleic acids integrated into a host cell chromosome at a heterologous site, recombinant fusions of a native fragment to a heterologous sequence, recombinant vectors present as episomes or as integrated into a host cell chromosome.

As used herein, an isolated nucleic acid "encodes" a reference polypeptide when at least a portion of the nucleic acid, or its complement, can be directly translated to provide the amino acid sequence of the reference polypeptide, or when the isolated nucleic acid can be used, alone or as part of an expression vector, to express the reference polypeptide in vitro, in a prokaryotic host cell, or in a eukaryotic host cell.

As used herein, the term "exon" refers to a
20 nucleic acid sequence found in genomic DNA that is
bioinformatically predicted and/or experimentally
confirmed to contribute contiguous sequence to a mature
mRNA transcript.

As used herein, the phrase "open reading
25 frame" and the equivalent acronym "ORF" refer to that
portion of a transcript-derived nucleic acid that can
be translated in its entirety into a sequence of
contiguous amino acids. As so defined, an ORF has
length, measured in nucleotides, exactly divisible by
3. As so defined, an ORF need not encode the entirety
30 of a natural protein.

As used herein, the phrase "ORF-encoded peptide" refers to the predicted or actual translation of an ORF.

As used herein, the phrase "degenerate variant" of a reference nucleic acid sequence intends all nucleic acid sequences that can be directly translated, using the standard genetic code, to provide
5 an amino acid sequence identical to that translated from the reference nucleic acid sequence.

As used herein, the term "microarray" and equivalent phrase "nucleic acid microarray" refer to a substrate-bound collection of plural nucleic acids,
10 hybridization to each of the plurality of bound nucleic acids being separately detectable. The substrate can be solid or porous, planar or non-planar, unitary or distributed.

As so defined, the term "microarray" and
15 phrase "nucleic acid microarray" include all the devices so called in Schena (ed.), DNA Microarrays: A Practical Approach (Practical Approach Series), Oxford University Press (1999) (ISBN: 0199637768); Nature Genet. 21(1)(suppl):1 - 60 (1999); and Schena (ed.),
20 Microarray Biochip: Tools and Technology, Eaton Publishing Company/BioTechniques Books Division (2000) (ISBN: 1881299376), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

As so defined, the term "microarray" and
25 phrase "nucleic acid microarray" also include substrate-bound collections of plural nucleic acids in which the plurality of nucleic acids are distributably disposed on a plurality of beads, rather than on a unitary planar substrate, as is described, inter alia,
30 in Brenner et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 97(4):166501670 (2000), the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety; in such case, the term "microarray" and phrase "nucleic

acid microarray" refer to the plurality of beads in aggregate.

As used herein with respect to solution phase hybridization, the term "probe", or equivalently,

5 "nucleic acid probe" or "hybridization probe", refers to an isolated nucleic acid of known sequence that is, or is intended to be, detectably labeled. As used herein with respect to a nucleic acid microarray, the term "probe" (or equivalently "nucleic acid probe" or
10 "hybridization probe") refers to the isolated nucleic acid that is, or is intended to be, bound to the substrate. In either such context, the term "target" refers to nucleic acid intended to be bound to probe by sequence complementarity.

15 As used herein, the expression "probe comprising SEQ ID NO:X", and variants thereof, intends a nucleic acid probe, at least a portion of which probe has either (i) the sequence directly as given in the referenced SEQ ID NO:X, or (ii) a sequence
20 complementary to the sequence as given in the referenced SEQ ID NO:X, the choice as between sequence directly as given and complement thereof dictated by the requirement that the probe be complementary to the desired target.

25 As used herein, the phrases "expression of a probe" and "expression of an isolated nucleic acid" and their linguistic equivalents intend that the probe or, respectively, the isolated nucleic acid, can hybridize detectably under high stringency conditions to a sample
30 of nucleic acids that derive from mRNA from a given source. For example, and by way of illustration only, expression of a probe in "liver" means that the probe can hybridize detectably under high stringency

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conditions to a sample of nucleic acids that derive from mRNA obtained from liver.

As used herein, the terms "protein", "polypeptide", and "peptide" are used interchangeably to refer to a naturally-occurring or synthetic polymer of amino acid monomers (residues), irrespective of length, where amino acid monomer here includes naturally-occurring amino acids, naturally-occurring amino acid structural variants, and synthetic non-naturally occurring analogs that are capable of participating in peptide bonds. The terms "protein", "polypeptide", and "peptide" explicitly permits of post-translational and post-synthetic modifications, such as glycosylation.

The term "oligopeptide" herein denotes a protein, polypeptide, or peptide having 25 or fewer monomeric subunits.

The phrases "isolated protein", "isolated polypeptide", "isolated peptide" and "isolated oligopeptide" refer to a protein (equally, to a polypeptide, peptide, or oligopeptide) that is nonidentical to any protein molecule of identical amino acid sequence as found in nature; "isolated" does not require, although it does not prohibit, that the protein so described has itself been physically removed from its native environment.

For example, a protein can be said to be "isolated" when it includes amino acid analogues or derivatives not found in nature, or includes linkages other than standard peptide bonds.

When instead composed entirely of natural amino acids linked by peptide bonds, a protein can be said to be "isolated" when it exists at a purity not found in nature - where purity can be adjudged with

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respect to the presence of proteins of other sequence,
with respect to the presence of non-protein compounds,
such as nucleic acids, lipids, or other components of a
biological cell, or when it exists in a composition not
5 found in nature, such as in a host cell that does not
naturally express that protein.

A "purified protein" (equally, a purified
polypeptide, peptide, or oligopeptide) is an isolated
protein, as above described, present at a concentration
10 of at least 95%, as measured on a weight basis with
respect to total protein in a composition. A
"substantially purified protein" (equally, a
substantially purified polypeptide, peptide, or
oligopeptide) is an isolated protein, as above
15 described, present at a concentration of at least 70%,
as measured on a weight basis with respect to total
protein in a composition.

As used herein, the phrase "protein isoforms"
refers to a plurality of proteins having nonidentical
20 primary amino acid sequence but that share amino acid
sequence encoded by at least one common exon.

As used herein, the phrase "alternative
splicing" and its linguistic equivalents includes all
types of RNA processing that lead to expression of
25 plural protein isoforms from a single gene;
accordingly, the phrase "splice variant(s)" and its
linguistic equivalents embraces mRNAs transcribed from
a given gene that, however processed, collectively
encode plural protein isoforms. For example, and by
30 way of illustration only, splice variants can include
exon insertions, exon extensions, exon truncations,
exon deletions, alternatives in the 5' untranslated
region ("5' UT") and alternatives in the 3'
untranslated region ("3' UT"). Such 3' alternatives

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include, for example, differences in the site of RNA transcript cleavage and site of poly(A) addition. See, e.g., Gautheret et al., Genome Res. 8:524-530 (1998).

As used herein, "orthologues" are separate
5 occurrences of the same gene in multiple species. The separate occurrences have similar, albeit nonidentical, amino acid sequences, the degree of sequence similarity depending, in part, upon the evolutionary distance of the species from a common ancestor having the same
10 gene.

As used herein, the term "paralogues" indicates separate occurrences of a gene in one species. The separate occurrences have similar, albeit nonidentical, amino acid sequences, the degree of
15 sequence similarity depending, in part, upon the evolutionary distance from the gene duplication event giving rise to the separate occurrences.

As used herein, the term "homologues" is generic to "orthologues" and "paralogues".

20 As used herein, the term "antibody" refers to a polypeptide, at least a portion of which is encoded by at least one immunoglobulin gene, or fragment thereof, and that can bind specifically to a desired target molecule. The term includes naturally-occurring
25 forms, as well as fragments and derivatives.

Fragments within the scope of the term include those produced by digestion with various proteases, those produced by chemical cleavage and/or chemical dissociation, and those produced
30 recombinantly, so long as the fragment remains capable of specific binding to a target molecule. Among such fragments are Fab, Fab', Fv, F(ab)'2, and single chain Fv (scFv) fragments.

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Derivatives within the scope of the term include antibodies (or fragments thereof) that have been modified in sequence, but remain capable of specific binding to a target molecule, including:

- 5 interspecies chimeric and humanized antibodies; antibody fusions; heteromeric antibody complexes and antibody fusions, such as diabodies (bispecific antibodies), single-chain diabodies, and intrabodies (see, e.g., Marasco (ed.), *Intracellular Antibodies: Research and Disease Applications*, Springer-Verlag New York, Inc. (1998) (ISBN: 3540641513), the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

- 15 As used herein, antibodies can be produced by any known technique, including harvest from cell culture of native B lymphocytes, harvest from culture of hybridomas, recombinant expression systems, and phage display.

- 20 As used herein, "antigen" refers to a ligand that can be bound by an antibody; an antigen need not itself be immunogenic. The portions of the antigen that make contact with the antibody are denominated "epitopes".

- 25 "Specific binding" refers to the ability of two molecular species concurrently present in a heterogeneous (inhomogeneous) sample to bind to one another in preference to binding to other molecular species in the sample. Typically, a specific binding interaction will discriminate over adventitious binding interactions in the reaction by at least two-fold, more typically by at least 10-fold, often at least 100-fold; when used to detect analyte, specific binding is sufficiently discriminatory when determinative of the presence of the analyte in a heterogeneous

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(inhomogeneous) sample. Typically, the affinity or avidity of a specific binding reaction is least about 10-7 M, with specific binding reactions of greater specificity typically having affinity or avidity of at least 10-8 M to at least about 10-9 M.

As used herein, "molecular binding partners" — and equivalently, "specific binding partners" — refer to pairs of molecules, typically pairs of biomolecules, that exhibit specific binding. Nonlimiting examples are receptor and ligand, antibody and antigen, and biotin to any of avidin, streptavidin, neutrAvidin and captAvidin.

NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES

In a first aspect, the invention provides isolated nucleic acids that encode human GRBP2, variants having at least 90% sequence identity thereto, degenerate variants thereof, variants that encode human GRBP2 proteins having conservative or moderately conservative substitutions, cross-hybridizing nucleic acids, and fragments thereof.

FIG. 3 presents the nucleotide sequence of the human GRBP2 cDNA clone, with predicted amino acid translation; the sequences are further presented in the Sequence Listing, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, in SEQ ID Nos: 1 (full length nucleotide sequence of human GRBP2 cDNA) and 3 (full length amino acid coding sequence of GRBP2).

Unless otherwise indicated, each nucleotide sequence is set forth herein as a sequence of deoxyribonucleotides. It is intended, however, that the given sequence be interpreted as would be appropriate to the polynucleotide composition: for

example, if the isolated nucleic acid is composed of RNA, the given sequence intends ribonucleotides, with uridine substituted for thymidine.

Unless otherwise indicated, nucleotide
5 sequences of the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention were determined by sequencing a DNA molecule that had resulted, directly or indirectly, from at least one enzymatic polymerization reaction (e.g., reverse transcription and/or polymerase chain reaction)
10 using an automated sequencer (such as the MegaBACE™ 1000, Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA, USA), or by reliance upon such sequence or upon genomic sequence prior-accessioned into a public database. Unless otherwise indicated, all amino acid sequences of
15 the polypeptides of the present invention were predicted by translation from the nucleic acid sequences so determined.

As a consequence, any nucleic acid sequence presented herein may contain errors introduced by
20 erroneous incorporation of nucleotides during polymerization, by erroneous base calling by the automated sequencer (although such sequencing errors have been minimized for the nucleic acids directly determined herein, unless otherwise indicated, by the
25 sequencing of each of the complementary strands of a duplex DNA), or by similar errors accessioned into the public database.

Accordingly, four overlapping cDNA clones that together can be used to provide an assembled
30 consensus sequence spanning the GRBP-2 cDNA were deposited in a public repository (American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, Virginia, USA) on June 27, 2001 and collectively been assigned accession no. _____.

Clone 1 (designation grbp2-5r1) contains

nucleotides 1 - 742 (numbering as in FIG. 3), clone 2 (designation grbp2-rt1) contains nucleotides 419 - 1360, clone 3 (grbp2-3f13) contains nucleotides 724 - 2748, and clone 4 (grbp2-rt5) contains nucleotides 1314
5 - 3489, plus the poly-A tail. Any errors in sequence reported herein can be determined and corrected by sequencing nucleic acids propagated from the deposited clones using standard techniques.

Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) occur
10 frequently in eukaryotic genomes - more than 1.4 million SNPs have already identified in the human genome, International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium, Nature 409:860 - 921 (2001) - and the sequence determined from one individual of a species
15 may differ from other allelic forms present within the population. Additionally, small deletions and insertions, rather than single nucleotide polymorphisms, are not uncommon in the general population, and often do not alter the function of the
20 protein.

Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide nucleic acids not only identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, but also to provide isolated nucleic acids at
25 least about 90% identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, typically at least about 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, or 95% identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, usefully at least about 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identical in
30 sequence to those described with particularity herein, and, most conservatively, at least about 99.5%, 99.6%, 99.7%, 99.8% and 99.9% identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein. These sequence variants can be naturally occurring or can result from

human intervention, as by random or directed mutagenesis.

For purposes herein, percent identity of two nucleic acid sequences is determined using the
5 procedure of Tatiana et al., "Blast 2 sequences - a new tool for comparing protein and nucleotide sequences", FEMS Microbiol Lett. 174:247-250 (1999), which procedure is effectuated by the computer program BLAST 2 SEQUENCES, available online at
10 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/bl2seq/bl2.html>.

To assess percent identity of nucleic acids, the BLASTN module of BLAST 2 SEQUENCES is used with default values of (i) reward for a match: 1; (ii) penalty for a mismatch: -2; (iii) open gap 5 and
15 extension gap 2 penalties; (iv) gap X_dropoff 50 expect 10 word size 11 filter, and both sequences are entered in their entirety.

As is well known, the genetic code is degenerate, with each amino acid except methionine
20 translated from a plurality of codons, thus permitting a plurality of nucleic acids of disparate sequence to encode the identical protein. As is also well known, codon choice for optimal expression varies from species to species. The isolated nucleic acids of the present
25 invention being useful for expression of human GRBP2 proteins and protein fragments, it is, therefore, another aspect of the present invention to provide isolated nucleic acids that encode human GRBP2 proteins and portions thereof not only identical in sequence to
30 those described with particularity herein, but degenerate variants thereof as well.

As is also well known, amino acid substitutions occur frequently among natural allelic

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variants, with conservative substitutions often occasioning only de minimis change in protein function.

Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide nucleic acids not only identical
5 in sequence to those described with particularity herein, but also to provide isolated nucleic acids that encode human GRBP2, and portions thereof, having conservative amino acid substitutions, and also to provide isolated nucleic acids that encode human GRBP2,
10 and portions thereof, having moderately conservative amino acid substitutions.

Although there are a variety of metrics for calling conservative amino acid substitutions, based primarily on either observed changes among
15 evolutionarily related proteins or on predicted chemical similarity, for purposes herein a conservative replacement is any change having a positive value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix reproduced herein below (see Gonnet et al., Science 256(5062):1443-5
20 (1992)):

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
	A	2	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	-2	0	1	1	-4	-2	0
	R	-1	5	0	0	-2	2	0	-1	1	-2	-2	3	-2	-3	-1	0	0	-2	-2
	N	0	0	4	2	-2	1	1	0	1	-3	-3	1	-2	-3	-1	1	0	-4	-1
25	D	0	0	2	5	-3	1	3	0	0	-4	-4	0	-3	-4	-1	0	0	-5	-3
	C	0	-2	-2	-3	12	-2	-3	-2	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	-3	0	0	-1	0
	Q	0	2	1	1	-2	3	2	-1	1	-2	-2	2	-1	-3	0	0	0	-3	-2
	E	0	0	1	3	-3	2	4	-1	0	-3	-3	1	-2	-4	0	0	0	-4	-3
	G	0	-1	0	0	-2	-1	-1	7	-1	-4	-4	-1	-4	-5	-2	0	-1	-4	-4
30	H	-1	1	1	0	-1	1	0	-1	6	-2	-2	1	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	2
	I	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-2	4	3	-2	2	1	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1
	L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-2	-2	-3	-4	-2	3	4	-2	3	2	-2	-2	-1	-1	0
	K	0	3	1	0	-3	2	1	-1	1	-2	-2	3	-1	-3	-1	0	0	-4	-2
	M	-1	-2	-2	-3	-1	-1	-2	-4	-1	2	3	-1	4	2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0
35	F	-2	-3	-3	-4	-1	-3	-4	-5	0	1	2	-3	2	7	-4	-3	-2	4	5
	P	0	-1	-1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	-1	-3	-2	-1	-2	-4	8	0	0	-5	-3
	S	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2	-2	0	-1	-3	0	2	2	-3	-2
	T	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-2	0	2	2	4	-2
	W	-4	-2	0	-4	-5	-1	-3	-4	-4	-1	-2	-1	-4	-1	4	-5	-3	-4	14
40	Y	-2	-2	-1	-3	0	-2	-3	-4	2	-1	0	-2	0	5	-3	-2	-2	4	8

V 0 -2 -2 -3 0 -2 -2 -3 -2 3 2 -2 2 0 -2 -1 0 -3 -1 3

For purposes herein, a "moderately conservative" replacement is any change having a nonnegative value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix reproduced herein above.

As is also well known in the art, relatedness of nucleic acids can also be characterized using a functional test, the ability of the two nucleic acids to base-pair to one another at defined hybridization stringencies.

It is, therefore, another aspect of the invention to provide isolated nucleic acids not only identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, but also to provide isolated nucleic acids ("cross-hybridizing nucleic acids") that hybridize under high stringency conditions (as defined herein below) to all or to a portion of various of the isolated human GRBP2 nucleic acids of the present invention ("reference nucleic acids"), as well as cross-hybridizing nucleic acids that hybridize under moderate stringency conditions to all or to a portion of various of the isolated human GRBP2 nucleic acids of the present invention.

Such cross-hybridizing nucleic acids are useful, inter alia, as probes for, and to drive expression of, proteins related to the proteins of the present invention as alternative isoforms, homologues, paralogues, and orthologues. Particularly preferred orthologues are those from other primate species, such as chimpanzee, rhesus macaque, baboon, and gorilla, from rodents, such as rats, mice, guinea pigs, and from livestock, such as cow, pig, sheep, horse, goat.

For purposes herein, high stringency conditions are defined as aqueous hybridization (i.e., free of formamide) in 6X SSC (where 20X SSC contains 3.0 M NaCl and 0.3 M sodium citrate), 1% SDS at 65oC
5 for at least 8 hours, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65oC. For purposes herein, moderate stringency conditions are defined as aqueous hybridization (i.e., free of formamide) in 6X SSC, 1% SDS at 65oC for at least 8 hours, followed by one or
10 more washes in 2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature.

The hybridizing portion of the reference nucleic acid is typically at least 15 nucleotides in length, often at least 17 nucleotides in length. Often, however, the hybridizing portion of the
15 reference nucleic acid is at least 20 nucleotides in length, 25 nucleotides in length, and even 30 nucleotides, 35 nucleotides, 40 nucleotides, and 50 nucleotides in length. Of course, cross-hybridizing nucleic acids that hybridize to a larger portion of the
20 reference nucleic acid - for example, to a portion of at least 50 nt, at least 100 nt, at least 150 nt, 200 nt, 250 nt, 300 nt, 350 nt, 400 nt, 450 nt, or 500 nt or more - or even to the entire length of the reference nucleic acid, are also useful.

The hybridizing portion of the cross-hybridizing nucleic acid is at least 75% identical in sequence to at least a portion of the reference nucleic acid. Typically, the hybridizing portion of the cross-hybridizing nucleic acid is at least 80%, often at
30 least 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89% or even at least 90% identical in sequence to at least a portion of the reference nucleic acid. Often, the hybridizing portion of the cross-hybridizing nucleic acid will be at least 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99%

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identical in sequence to at least a portion of the
reference nucleic acid sequence. At times, the
hybridizing portion of the cross-hybridizing nucleic
acid will be at least 99.5% identical in sequence to at
least a portion of the reference nucleic acid.

The invention also provides fragments of
various of the isolated nucleic acids of the present
invention.

By "fragments" of a reference nucleic acid is
here intended isolated nucleic acids, however obtained,
that have a nucleotide sequence identical to a portion
of the reference nucleic acid sequence, which portion
is at least 17 nucleotides and less than the entirety
of the reference nucleic acid. As so defined,
"fragments" need not be obtained by physical
fragmentation of the reference nucleic acid, although
such provenance is not thereby precluded.

In theory, an oligonucleotide of 17
nucleotides is of sufficient length as to occur at
random less frequently than once in the three gigabase
human genome, and thus to provide a nucleic acid probe
that can uniquely identify the reference sequence in a
nucleic acid mixture of genomic complexity. As is well
known, further specificity can be obtained by probing
nucleic acid samples of subgenomic complexity, and/or
by using plural fragments as short as 17 nucleotides in
length collectively to prime amplification of nucleic
acids, as, e.g., by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

As further described herein below, nucleic
acid fragments that encode at least 6 contiguous amino
acids (i.e., fragments of 18 nucleotides or more) are
useful in directing the expression or the synthesis of
peptides that have utility in mapping the epitopes of
the protein encoded by the reference nucleic acid.

See, e.g., Geysen *et al.*, "Use of peptide synthesis to probe viral antigens for epitopes to a resolution of a single amino acid," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:3998-4002 (1984); and U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,708,871 and

5 5,595,915, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

As further described herein below, fragments that encode at least 8 contiguous amino acids (i.e., fragments of 24 nucleotides or more) are useful in
10 directing the expression or the synthesis of peptides that have utility as immunogens. See, e.g., Lerner, "Tapping the immunological repertoire to produce antibodies of predetermined specificity," *Nature* 299:592-596 (1982); Shinnick *et al.*, "Synthetic peptide
15 immunogens as vaccines," *Annu. Rev. Microbiol.* 37:425-46 (1983); Sutcliffe *et al.*, "Antibodies that react with predetermined sites on proteins," *Science* 219:660-6 (1983), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

20 The nucleic acid fragment of the present invention is thus at least 17 nucleotides in length, typically at least 18 nucleotides in length, and often at least 24 nucleotides in length. Often, the nucleic acid of the present invention is at least 25
25 nucleotides in length, and even 30 nucleotides, 35 nucleotides, 40 nucleotides, or 45 nucleotides in length. Of course, larger fragments having at least 50 nt, at least 100 nt, at least 150 nt, 200 nt, 250 nt, 300 nt, 350 nt, 400 nt, 450 nt, or 500 nt or more
30 are also useful, and at times preferred.

Having been based upon the mining of genomic sequence, rather than upon surveillance of expressed message, the present invention further provides

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isolated genome-derived nucleic acids that include portions of the human GRBP2 gene.

The invention particularly provides genome-derived single exon probes.

- 5 As further described in commonly owned and copending U.S. patent application serial nos. 09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001, 09/774,203, filed January 29, 2001 and 09/632,366, filed August 3, 2000, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by
10 reference in their entireties, single exon probes comprise a portion of no more than one exon of the reference gene; the exonic portion is of sufficient length to hybridize under high stringency conditions to transcript-derived nucleic acids - such as mRNA or
15 cDNA - that contain the exon or a portion thereof.

- Genome-derived single exon probes can usefully further comprise, contiguous to a first end of the exon portion, a first intronic and/or intergenic sequence that is identically contiguous to the exon in
20 the genome. Often, the genome-derived single exon probe further comprises, contiguous to a second end of the exonic portion, a second intronic and/or intergenic sequence that is identically contiguous to the exon in the genome.

- 25 The minimum length of genome-derived single exon probes is defined by the requirement that the exonic portion be of sufficient length to hybridize under high stringency conditions to transcript-derived nucleic acids. Accordingly, the exon portion is at
30 least 17 nucleotides, typically at least 18 nucleotides, 20 nucleotides, 24 nucleotides, 25 nucleotides or even 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 nucleotides in length, and can usefully include the entirety of the

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exon, up to 100 nt, 150 nt, 200 nt, 250 nt, 300 nt, 350 nt, 400 nt or even 500 nt or more in length.

The maximum length of genome-derived single exon probes is defined by the requirement that the probes contain portions of no more than one exon. Given variable spacing of exons through eukaryotic genomes, the maximum length is typically no more than 25 kb, often no more than 20 kb, 15 kb, 10 kb or 7.5 kb, or even no more than 5 kb, 4 kb, 3 kb, or even no more than about 2.5 kb in length.

Genome-derived single exon probes can usefully include at least a first terminal priming sequence not found in contiguity with the rest of the probe sequence in the genome, and often will contain a second terminal priming sequence not found in contiguity with the rest of the probe sequence in the genome.

The present invention also provides isolated genome-derived nucleic acids that include nucleic acid sequence elements that control transcription of the human GRBP2 gene.

The isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can be composed of natural nucleotides in native 5'-3' phosphodiester internucleoside linkage - e.g., DNA or RNA - or can contain any or all of nonnatural nucleotide analogues, nonnative internucleoside bonds, or post-synthesis modifications, either throughout the length of the nucleic acid or localized to one or more portions thereof. As is well known in the art, when the isolated nucleic acid is used as a hybridization probe, the range of such nonnatural analogues, nonnative internucleoside bonds, or post-synthesis modifications will be limited to those that permit sequence-discriminating basepairing

of the resulting nucleic acid. When used to direct expression or RNA or protein *in vitro* or *in vivo*, the range of such nonnatural analogues, nonnative internucleoside bonds, or post-synthesis modifications will be limited to those that permit the nucleic acid to function properly as a polymerization substrate. When the isolated nucleic acid is used as a therapeutic agent, the range of such changes will be limited to those that do not confer toxicity upon the isolated nucleic acid.

For example, when desired to be used as probes, the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can usefully include nucleotide analogues that incorporate labels that are directly detectable, such as radiolabels or fluorophores, or nucleotide analogues that incorporate labels that can be visualized in a subsequent reaction, such as biotin or various haptens.

Common radiolabeled analogues include those labeled with ^{33}P , ^{32}P , and ^{35}S , such as α - ^{32}P -dATP, α - ^{32}P -dCTP, α - ^{32}P -dGTP, α - ^{32}P -dTTP, α - ^{32}P -3'dATP, α - ^{32}P -ATP, α - ^{32}P -CTP, α - ^{32}P -GTP, α - ^{32}P -UTP, α - ^{35}S -dATP, γ - ^{35}S -GTP, γ - ^{33}P -dATP, and the like.

Commercially available fluorescent nucleotide analogues readily incorporated into the nucleic acids of the present invention include Cy3-dCTP, Cy3-dUTP, Cy5-dCTP, Cy3-dUTP (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA), fluorescein-12-dUTP, tetramethylrhodamine-6-dUTP, Texas Red®-5-dUTP, Cascade Blue®-7-dUTP, BODIPY® FL-14-dUTP, BODIPY® TMR-14-dUTP, BODIPY® TR-14-dUTP, Rhodamine Green™-5-dUTP, Oregon Green® 488-5-dUTP, Texas Red®-12-dUTP, BODIPY® 630/650-14-dUTP, BODIPY® 650/665-14-dUTP, Alexa Fluor® 488-5-dUTP, Alexa Fluor® 532-5-dUTP, Alexa Fluor®

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5 BODIPY® TR-14-UTP, Rhodamine Green™-5-UTP, Alexa Fluor®
488-5-UTP, Alexa Fluor® 546-14-UTP (Molecular Probes,
Inc. Eugene, OR, USA).

10 *al.*, "Custom Fluorescent-Nucleotide Synthesis as an
Alternative Method for Nucleic Acid Labeling," *Nature*
Biotechnol. 18:345 - 348 (2000), the disclosure of
which is incorporated herein by reference in its
entirety.

As another example, when desired to be used
25 for antisense inhibition of translation, the isolated
nucleic acids of the present invention can usefully
include altered, often nuclease-resistant,
internucleoside bonds. See Hartmann et al. (eds.),
Manual of Antisense Methodology (Perspectives in
30 Antisense Science), Kluwer Law International (1999)
(ISBN:079238539X); Stein et al. (eds.), Applied
Antisense Oligonucleotide Technology, Wiley-Liss (cover
(1998) (ISBN: 0471172790); Chadwick et al. (eds.),

Oligonucleotides as Therapeutic Agents - Symposium No. 209, John Wiley & Son Ltd (1997) (ISBN: 0471972797), or for targeted gene correction, Gamper et al., Nucl. Acids Res. 28(21):4332-9 (2000), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Modified oligonucleotide backbones often preferred when the nucleic acid is to be used for antisense purposes are, for example, phosphorothioates, 10 chiral phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, phosphotriesters, aminoalkylphosphotriesters, methyl and other alkyl phosphonates including 3'-alkylene phosphonates and chiral phosphonates, phosphinates, phosphoramidates including 3'-amino phosphoramidate and 15 aminoalkylphosphoramidates, thionophosphoramidates, thionoalkylphosphonates, thionoalkylphosphotriesters, and boranophosphates having normal 3'-5' linkages, 2'-5' linked analogs of these, and those having inverted polarity wherein the adjacent pairs of 20 nucleoside units are linked 3'-5' to 5'-3' or 2'-5' to 5'-2'. Representative U.S. patents that teach the preparation of the above phosphorus-containing linkages include, but are not limited to, U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,687,808; 4,469,863; 4,476,301; 5,023,243; 5,177,196; 25 5,188,897; 5,264,423; 5,276,019; 5,278,302; 5,286,717; 5,321,131; 5,399,676; 5,405,939; 5,453,496; 5,455,233; 5,466,677; 5,476,925; 5,519,126; 5,536,821; 5,541,306; 5,550,111; 5,563,253; 5,571,799; 5,587,361; and 5,625,050, the disclosures of which are incorporated 30 herein by reference in their entireties.

Preferred modified oligonucleotide backbones for antisense use that do not include a phosphorus atom have backbones that are formed by short chain alkyl or cycloalkyl internucleoside linkages, mixed heteroatom

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and alkyl or cycloalkyl internucleoside linkages, or one or more short chain heteroatomic or heterocyclic internucleoside linkages. These include those having morpholino linkages (formed in part from the sugar portion of a nucleoside); siloxane backbones; sulfide, sulfoxide and sulfone backbones; formacetyl and thioformacetyl backbones; methylene formacetyl and thioformacetyl backbones; alkene containing backbones; sulfamate backbones; methyleneimino and methylenehydrazino backbones; sulfonate and sulfonamide backbones; amide backbones; and others having mixed N, O, S and CH₂ component parts. Representative U.S. patents that teach the preparation of the above backbones include, but are not limited to, U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,034,506; 5,166,315; 5,185,444; 5,214,134; 5,216,141; 5,235,033; 5,264,562; 5,264,564; 5,405,938; 5,434,257; 5,466,677; 5,470,967; 5,489,677; 5,541,307; 5,561,225; 5,596,086; 5,602,240; 5,610,289; 5,602,240; 5,608,046; 5,610,289; 5,618,704; 5,623,070; 5,663,312; 5,633,360; 5,677,437; and 5,677,439, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

In other preferred oligonucleotide mimetics, both the sugar and the internucleoside linkage are replaced with novel groups, such as peptide nucleic acids (PNA).

In PNA compounds, the phosphodiester backbone of the nucleic acid is replaced with an amide-containing backbone, in particular by repeating N-(2-aminoethyl) glycine units linked by amide bonds. Nucleobases are bound directly or indirectly to azanitrogen atoms of the amide portion of the backbone, typically by methylene carbonyl linkages.

The uncharged nature of the PNA backbone provides PNA/DNA and PNA/RNA duplexes with a higher thermal stability than is found in DNA/DNA and DNA/RNA duplexes, resulting from the lack of charge repulsion between the PNA and DNA or RNA strand. In general, the T_m of a PNA/DNA or PNA/RNA duplex is 1°C higher per base pair than the T_m of the corresponding DNA/DNA or DNA/RNA duplex (in 100 mM NaCl).

The neutral backbone also allows PNA to form stable DNA duplexes largely independent of salt concentration. At low ionic strength, PNA can be hybridized to a target sequence at temperatures that make DNA hybridization problematic or impossible. And unlike DNA/DNA duplex formation, PNA hybridization is possible in the absence of magnesium. Adjusting the ionic strength, therefore, is useful if competing DNA or RNA is present in the sample, or if the nucleic acid being probed contains a high level of secondary structure.

PNA also demonstrates greater specificity in binding to complementary DNA. A PNA/DNA mismatch is more destabilizing than DNA/DNA mismatch. A single mismatch in mixed a PNA/DNA 15-mer lowers the T_m by 8-20°C (15°C on average). In the corresponding DNA/DNA duplexes, a single mismatch lowers the T_m by 4-16°C (11°C on average). Because PNA probes can be significantly shorter than DNA probes, their specificity is greater.

Additionally, nucleases and proteases do not recognize the PNA polyamide backbone with nucleobase sidechains. As a result, PNA oligomers are resistant to degradation by enzymes, and the lifetime of these compounds is extended both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. In addition, PNA is stable over a wide pH range.

Because its backbone is formed from amide bonds, PNA can be synthesized using a modified peptide synthesis protocol. PNA oligomers can be synthesized by both Fmoc and tBoc methods. Representative U.S.

- 5 patents that teach the preparation of PNA compounds include, but are not limited to, U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,539,082; 5,714,331; and 5,719,262, each of which is herein incorporated by reference; automated PNA synthesis is readily achievable on commercial
10 synthesizers (see, e.g., "PNA User's Guide," Rev. 2, February 1998, Perseptive Biosystems Part No. 60138, Applied Biosystems, Inc., Foster City, CA).

- PNA chemistry and applications are reviewed, inter alia, in Ray et al., *FASEB J.* 14(9):1041-60
15 (2000); Nielsen et al., *Pharmacol Toxicol.* 86(1):3-7 (2000); Larsen et al., *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 1489(1):159-66 (1999); Nielsen, *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* 9(3):353-7 (1999), and Nielsen, *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.* 10(1):71-5 (1999), the disclosures of which
20 are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

- Differences from nucleic acid compositions found in nature - e.g., nonnative bases, altered internucleoside linkages, post-synthesis modification -
25 can be present throughout the length of the nucleic acid or can, instead, usefully be localized to discrete portions thereof. As an example of the latter, chimeric nucleic acids can be synthesized that have discrete DNA and RNA domains and demonstrated utility
30 for targeted gene repair, as further described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,760,012 and 5,731,181, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. As another example, chimeric nucleic acids

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5 incorporated herein by reference.

10 stranded, double-stranded, triplexed, quadruplexed,
partially double-stranded, partially-triplexed,
partially-quadruplexed, branched, hairpinned, circular,
and padlocked conformations. Padlock conformations and
their utilities are further described in Banér et al.,

15 Curr. Opin. Biotechnol. 12:11-15 (2001); Escude et al.,
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 14;96(19):10603-7 (1999);
Nilsson et al., Science 265(5181):2085-8 (1994), the
disclosures of which are incorporated herein by
reference in their entireties. Triplex and quadruplex
20 conformations, and their utilities, are reviewed in
Praseuth et al., Biochim. Biophys. Acta.

1489(1):181-206 (1999); Fox, Curr. Med. Chem.
7(1):17-37 (2000); Kochetkova et al., Methods Mol.
Biol. 130:189-201 (2000); Chan et al., J. Mol. Med.
25 75(4):267-82 (1997), the disclosures of which are
incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

The nucleic acids of the present invention can be detectably labeled.

Commonly-used labels include radionuclides, 30 such as ³²P, ³³P, ³⁵S, ³H (and for NMR detection, ¹³C and ¹⁵N), haptens that can be detected by specific antibody or high affinity binding partner (such as avidin), and fluorophores.

10 are readily available for each such labeling approach.

Analogues can also be incorporated during automated solid phase chemical synthesis.

15 phosphate and 3' hydroxyl providing convenient sites
for post-synthetic covalent attachment of detectable
labels.

Various other post-synthetic approaches permit internal labeling of nucleic acids.

20 For example, fluorophores can be attached
using a cisplatin reagent that reacts with the N7 of
guanine residues (and, to a lesser extent, adenine
bases) in DNA, RNA, and PNA to provide a stable
coordination complex between the nucleic acid and
25 fluorophore label (Universal Linkage System) (available
from Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR, USA and
Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ, USA); see
Alers et al., Genes, Chromosomes & Cancer, Vol. 25, pp.
301 - 305 (1999); Jelsma et al., J. NIH Res. 5:82
30 (1994); Van Belkum et al., BioTechniques 16:148-153
(1994), incorporated herein by reference. As another
example, nucleic acids can be labeled using a
disulfide-containing linker (FastTag™ Reagent, Vector

Laboratories, Inc., Burlingame, CA, USA) that is photo-
or thermally coupled to the target nucleic acid using
aryl azide chemistry; after reduction, a free thiol is
available for coupling to a hapten, fluorophore, sugar,
5 affinity ligand, or other marker.

Multiple independent or interacting labels
can be incorporated into the nucleic acids of the
present invention.

For example, both a fluorophore and a moiety
10 that in proximity thereto acts to quench fluorescence
can be included to report specific hybridization
through release of fluorescence quenching, Tyagi et
al., *Nature Biotechnol.* 14: 303-308 (1996); Tyagi et
al., *Nature Biotechnol.* 16, 49-53 (1998); Sokol et al.,
15 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 95: 11538-11543 (1998);
Kostrikis et al., *Science* 279:1228-1229 (1998); Marras
et al., *Genet. Anal.* 14: 151-156 (1999); U.S. Pat. Nos.
5,846,726, 5,925,517, 5,925,517, or to report
exonucleotidic excision, U.S. Pat. No. 5,538,848;
20 Holland et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:7276-7280
(1991); Heid et al., *Genome Res.* 6(10):986-94 (1996);
Kuimelis et al., *Nucleic Acids Symp Ser.* (37):255-6
(1997); U.S. Patent No. 5,723,591, the disclosures of
which are incorporated herein by reference in their
25 entireties.

So labeled, the isolated nucleic acids of the
present invention can be used as probes, as further
described below.

Nucleic acids of the present invention can
30 also usefully be bound to a substrate. The substrate
can porous or solid, planar or non-planar, unitary or
distributed; the bond can be covalent or noncovalent.
Bound to a substrate, nucleic acids of the present

invention can be used as probes in their unlabeled state.

For example, the nucleic acids of the present invention can usefully be bound to a porous substrate, commonly a membrane, typically comprising nitrocellulose, nylon, or positively-charged derivatized nylon; so attached, the nucleic acids of the present invention can be used to detect human GRBP2 nucleic acids present within a labeled nucleic acid sample, either a sample of genomic nucleic acids or a sample of transcript-derived nucleic acids, e.g. by reverse dot blot.

The nucleic acids of the present invention can also usefully be bound to a solid substrate, such as glass, although other solid materials, such as amorphous silicon, crystalline silicon, or plastics, can also be used. Such plastics include polymethylacrylic, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacrylate, polymethylmethacrylate, polyvinylchloride, polytetrafluoroethylene, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polyacetal, polysulfone, celluloseacetate, cellulosenitrate, nitrocellulose, or mixtures thereof.

Typically, the solid substrate will be rectangular, although other shapes, particularly disks and even spheres, present certain advantages. Particularly advantageous alternatives to glass slides as support substrates for array of nucleic acids are optical discs, as described in Demers, "Spatially Addressable Combinatorial Chemical Arrays in CD-ROM Format," international patent publication WO 98/12559, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The nucleic acids of the present invention can be attached covalently to a surface of the support

5 The nucleic acids of the present invention
can be bound to a substrate to which a plurality of
other nucleic acids are concurrently bound,
hybridization to each of the plurality of bound nucleic
acids being separately detectable. At low density,
10 e.g. on a porous membrane, these substrate-bound
collections are typically denominated macroarrays; at
higher density, typically on a solid support, such as
glass, these substrate bound collections of plural
nucleic acids are colloquially termed microarrays. As
15 used herein, the term microarray includes arrays of all
densities. It is, therefore, another aspect of the
invention to provide microarrays that include the
nucleic acids of the present invention.

For example, the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can be used as probes to detect and characterize gross alterations in the human GRBP2 genomic locus, such as deletions, insertions, translocations, and duplications of the human GRBP2 genomic locus through fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) to chromosome spreads. See, e.g.,

0471013455), the disclosure of which is incorporated

The isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can also be used as probes to detect, characterize, and quantify human GRBP2 nucleic acids in, and isolate human GRBP2 nucleic acids from, 20 transcript-derived nucleic acid samples.

For example, the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can be used as hybridization probes to detect, characterize by length, and quantify human GRBP2 mRNA by northern blot of total or poly-A-
25 selected RNA samples. For example, the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can be used as hybridization probes to detect, characterize by location, and quantify human GRBP2 message by in situ hybridization to tissue sections (see, e.g.,
30 Schvarczacher et al., In Situ Hybridization, Springer-Verlag New York (2000) (ISBN: 0387915966), the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety). For example, the isolated nucleic

acids of the present invention can be used as hybridization probes to measure the representation of human GRBP2 clones in a cDNA library. For example, the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can be used as hybridization probes to isolate human GRBP2 nucleic acids from cDNA libraries, permitting sequence level characterization of human GRBP2 messages, including identification of deletions, insertions, truncations - including deletions, insertions, and truncations of exons in alternatively spliced forms - and single nucleotide polymorphisms.

All of the aforementioned probe techniques are well within the skill in the art, and are described at greater length in standard texts such as Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (3rd ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2001) (ISBN: 0879695773); Ausubel et al. (eds.), Short Protocols in Molecular Biology: A Compendium of Methods from Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (4th ed.), John Wiley & Sons, 1999 (ISBN: 047132938X); and Walker et al. (eds.), The Nucleic Acids Protocols Handbook, Humana Press (2000) (ISBN: 0896034593), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

As described in the Examples herein below, the nucleic acids of the present invention can also be used to detect and quantify human GRBP2 nucleic acids in transcript-derived samples - that is, to measure expression of the human GRBP2 gene - when included in a microarray. Measurement of human GRBP2 expression has particular utility in diagnosis and therapy of tumors, as further described in the Examples herein below.

As would be readily apparent to one of skill in the art, each human GRBP2 nucleic acid probe - whether labeled, substrate-bound, or both - is thus currently available for use as a tool for measuring the
5 level of human GRBP2 expression in each of the tissues in which expression has already been confirmed, notably kidney, colon, adrenal, adult liver, bone marrow, brain, fetal liver, heart, hela, lung, placenta, prostate and skeletal muscle. The utility is specific
10 to the probe: under high stringency conditions, the probe reports the level of expression of message specifically containing that portion of the human GRBP2 gene included within the probe.

Measuring tools are well known in many arts,
15 not just in molecular biology, and are known to possess credible, specific, and substantial utility. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,016,191 describes and claims a tool for measuring characteristics of fluid flow in a hydrocarbon well; U.S. Patent No. 6,042,549 describes
20 and claims a device for measuring exercise intensity; U.S. Patent No. 5,889,351 describes and claims a device for measuring viscosity and for measuring characteristics of a fluid; U.S. Patent No. 5,570,694 describes and claims a device for measuring blood
25 pressure; U.S. Patent No. 5,930,143 describes and claims a device for measuring the dimensions of machine tools; U.S. Patent No. 5,279,044 describes and claims a measuring device for determining an absolute position of a movable element; U.S. Patent No. 5,186,042
30 describes and claims a device for measuring action force of a wheel; and U.S. Patent No. 4,246,774 describes and claims a device for measuring the draft of smoking articles such as cigarettes.

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5 presence of human GRBP2 nucleic acids.

Survey tools - i.e., tools for determining the presence and/or location of a desired object by search of an area - are well known in many arts, not just in molecular biology, and are known to possess credible, specific, and substantial utility. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,046,800 describes and claims a device for surveying an area for objects that move; U.S. Patent No. 6,025,201 describes and claims an apparatus for locating and discriminating platelets from non-platelet particles or cells on a cell-by-cell basis in a whole blood sample; U.S. Patent No. 5,990,689 describes and claims a device for detecting and locating anomalies in the electromagnetic protection of a system; U.S. Patent No. 5,984,175 describes and claims a device for detecting and identifying wearable user identification units; U.S. Patent No. 3,980,986 ("Oil well survey tool"), describes and claims a tool for finding the position of a drill bit working at the bottom of a borehole,

25 As noted above, the nucleic acid probes of the present invention are useful in constructing microarrays; the microarrays, in turn, are products of manufacture that are useful for measuring and for surveying gene expression.

30 When included on a microarray, each human
GRBP2 nucleic acid probe makes the microarray
specifically useful for detecting that portion of the
human GRBP2 gene included within the probe, thus
imparting upon the microarray device the ability to

detect a signal where, absent such probe, it would have reported no signal. This utility makes each individual probe on such microarray akin to an antenna, circuit, firmware or software element included in an electronic apparatus, where the antenna, circuit, firmware or software element imparts upon the apparatus the ability newly and additionally to detect signal in a portion of the radio-frequency spectrum where previously it could not; such devices are known to have specific, substantial, and credible utility.

Changes in expression need not be observed for the measurement of expression to have utility.

For example, where gene expression analysis is used to assess toxicity of chemical agents on cells, the failure of the agent to change a gene's expression level is evidence that the drug likely does not affect the pathway of which the gene's expressed protein is a part. Analogously, where gene expression analysis is used to assess side effects of pharmacologic agents - whether in lead compound discovery or in subsequent screening of lead compound derivatives - the inability of the agent to alter a gene's expression level is evidence that the drug does not affect the pathway of which the gene's expressed protein is a part.

WO 99/58720, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, provides methods for quantifying the relatedness of a first and second gene expression profile and for ordering the relatedness of a plurality of gene expression profiles, without regard to the identity or function of the genes whose expression is used in the calculation.

Gene expression analysis, including gene expression analysis by microarray hybridization, is, of

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course, principally a laboratory-based art. Devices and apparatus used principally in laboratories to facilitate laboratory research are well-established to possess specific, substantial, and credible utility.

- 5 For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,001,233 describes and claims a gel electrophoresis apparatus having a cam-activated clamp; for example, U.S. Patent No. 6,051,831 describes and claims a high mass detector for use in time-of-flight mass spectrometers; for example, U.S. Patent NO. 5,824,269 describes and claims a flow cytometer-- few gel electrophoresis apparatuses, TOF-MS devices, or flow cytometers are sold for consumer use.

- Indeed, and in particular, nucleic acid microarrays, as devices intended for laboratory use in measuring gene expression, are well-established to have specific, substantial and credible utility. Thus, the microarrays of the present invention have at least the specific, substantial and credible utilities of the microarrays claimed as devices and articles of manufacture in the following U.S. patents, the disclosures of each of which is incorporated herein by reference: U.S. Patent Nos. 5,445,934 ("Array of oligonucleotides on a solid substrate"); 5,744,305 ("Arrays of materials attached to a substrate"); and 6,004,752 ("Solid support with attached molecules").

- Genome-derived single exon probes and genome-derived single exon probe microarrays have the additional utility, inter alia, of permitting high-throughput detection of splice variants of the nucleic acids of the present invention, as further described in copending and commonly owned U.S. Patent application no. 09/632,366, filed August 3, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can also be used to prime synthesis of nucleic acid, for purpose of either analysis or isolation, using mRNA, cDNA, or genomic DNA as
5 template.

For use as primers, at least 17 contiguous nucleotides of the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention will be used. Often, at least 18, 19, or 20 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acids
10 of the present invention will be used, and on occasion at least 20, 22, 24, or 25 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acids of the present invention will be used, and even 30 nucleotides or more of the nucleic acids of the present invention can be used to prime
15 specific synthesis.

The nucleic acid primers of the present invention can be used, for example, to prime first strand cDNA synthesis on an mRNA template.

Such primer extension can be done directly to
20 analyze the message. Alternatively, synthesis on an mRNA template can be done to produce first strand cDNA. The first strand cDNA can thereafter be used, inter alia, directly as a single-stranded probe, as above-described, as a template for sequencing - permitting
25 identification of alterations, including deletions, insertions, and substitutions, both normal allelic variants and mutations associated with abnormal phenotypes- or as a template, either for second strand cDNA synthesis (e.g., as an antecedent to insertion
30 into a cloning or expression vector), or for amplification.

The nucleic acid primers of the present invention can also be used, for example, to prime single base extension (SBE) for SNP detection (see,

e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 6,004,744, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

- As another example, the nucleic acid primers of the present invention can be used to prime
- 5 amplification of human GRBP2 nucleic acids, using transcript-derived or genomic DNA as template.

- Primer-directed amplification methods are now well-established in the art. Methods for performing the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) are compiled, inter
- 10 alia, in McPherson, PCR (Basics: From Background to Bench), Springer Verlag (2000) (ISBN: 0387916008); Innis et al. (eds.), PCR Applications: Protocols for Functional Genomics, Academic Press (1999) (ISBN: 0123721857); Gelfand et al. (eds.), PCR Strategies,
- 15 Academic Press (1998) (ISBN: 0123721822); Newton et al., PCR, Springer-Verlag New York (1997) (ISBN: 0387915060); Burke (ed.), PCR: Essential Techniques, John Wiley & Son Ltd (1996) (ISBN: 047195697X); White (ed.), PCR Cloning Protocols: From Molecular Cloning to
- 20 Genetic Engineering, Vol. 67, Humana Press (1996) (ISBN: 0896033430); McPherson et al. (eds.), PCR 2: A Practical Approach, Oxford University Press, Inc. (1995) (ISBN: 0199634254), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.
- 25 Methods for performing RT-PCR are collected, e.g., in Siebert et al. (eds.), Gene Cloning and Analysis by RT-PCR, Eaton Publishing Company/Bio Techniques Books Division, 1998 (ISBN: 1881299147); Siebert (ed.), PCR Technique:RT-PCR, Eaton Publishing
- 30 Company/BioTechniques Books (1995) (ISBN:1881299139), the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Isothermal amplification approaches, such as rolling circle amplification, are also now well-described. See, e.g., Schweitzer *et al.*, *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.* 12(1):21-7 (2001); U.S. Patent Nos.

5 5,854,033 and 5,714,320 and international patent publications WO 97/19193 and WO 00/15779, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. Rolling circle amplification can be combined with other techniques to
10 facilitate SNP detection. See, e.g., Lizardi *et al.*, *Nature Genet.* 19(3):225-32 (1998).

As further described below, nucleic acids of the present invention, inserted into vectors that flank the nucleic acid insert with a phage promoter, such as
15 T7, T3, or SP6 promoter, can be used to drive in vitro expression of RNA complementary to either strand of the nucleic acid of the present invention. The RNA can be used, *inter alia*, as a single-stranded probe, to effect subtraction, or for in vitro translation.

20 As will be further discussed herein below, nucleic acids of the present invention that encode human GRBP2 protein or portions thereof can be used, *inter alia*, to express the human GRBP2 proteins or protein fragments, either alone, or as part of fusion
25 proteins.

Expression can be from genomic nucleic acids of the present invention, or from transcript-derived nucleic acids of the present invention.

Where protein expression is effected from
30 genomic DNA, expression will typically be effected in eukaryotic, typically mammalian, cells capable of splicing introns from the initial RNA transcript. Expression can be driven from episomal vectors, such as EBV-based vectors, or can be effected from genomic DNA

integrated into a host cell chromosome. As will be more fully described below, where expression is from transcript-derived (or otherwise intron-less) nucleic acids of the present invention, expression can be
5 effected in wide variety of prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells.

Expressed *in vitro*, the protein, protein fragment, or protein fusion can thereafter be isolated, to be used, *inter alia*, as a standard in immunoassays
10 specific for the proteins, or protein isoforms, of the present invention; to be used as a therapeutic agent, *e.g.*, to be administered as passive replacement therapy in individuals deficient in the proteins of the present invention, or to be administered as a vaccine; to be
15 used for *in vitro* production of specific antibody, the antibody thereafter to be used, *e.g.*, as an analytical reagent for detection and quantitation of the proteins of the present invention or to be used as an immunotherapeutic agent.

20 The isolated nucleic acids of the present invention can also be used to drive *in vivo* expression of the proteins of the present invention. *In vivo* expression can be driven from a vector - typically a viral vector, often a vector based upon a replication
25 incompetent retrovirus, an adenovirus, or an adeno-associated virus (AAV) - for purpose of gene therapy. *In vivo* expression can also be driven from signals endogenous to the nucleic acid or from a vector, often a plasmid vector, for purpose of "naked" nucleic acid
30 vaccination, as further described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,589,466; 5,679,647; 5,804,566; 5,830,877; 5,843,913; 5,880,104; 5,958,891; 5,985,847; 6,017,897; 6,110,898;

The nucleic acids of the present invention can also be used for antisense inhibition of

- Nucleic acids of the present invention that encode full-length human GRBP2 protein isoforms, particularly cDNAs encoding full-length isoforms, have 30 additional, well-recognized, utility as products of manufacture suitable for sale.

For example, human GRBP2 encoding full length human proteins have immediate, real world utility as

commercial products suitable for sale. Invitrogen Corp. (Carlsbad, CA, USA), through its Research Genetics subsidiary, sells full length human cDNAs cloned into one of a selection of expression vectors as
5 GeneStorm® expression-ready clones; utility is specific for the gene, since each gene is capable of being ordered separately and has a distinct catalogue number, and utility is substantial, each clone selling for \$650.00 US.

10 Nucleic acids of the present invention that include genomic regions encoding the human GRBP2 protein, or portions thereof, have yet further utilities.

For example, genomic nucleic acids of the
15 present invention can be used as amplification substrates, e.g. for preparation of genome-derived single exon probes of the present invention, described above and further described in commonly owned and copending U.S. patent application serial nos.
20 09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001, 09/774,203, filed January 29, 2001, and 09/632,366, filed August 3, 2000, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

As another example, genomic nucleic acids of
25 the present invention can be integrated non-homologously into the genome of somatic cells, e.g. CHO cells, COS cells, or 293 cells, with or without amplification of the insertional locus, in order, e.g., to create stable cell lines capable of producing the
30 proteins of the present invention.

As another example, more fully described herein below, genomic nucleic acids of the present invention can be integrated nonhomologously into

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embryonic stem (ES) cells to create transgenic non-human animals capable of producing the proteins of the present invention.

Genomic nucleic acids of the present

- 5 invention can also be used to target homologous recombination to the human GRBP2 locus. See, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 6,187,305; 6,204,061; 5,631,153; 5,627,059; 5,487,992; 5,464,764; 5,614,396; 5,527,695 and 6,063,630; and Kmiec et al. (eds.), Gene Targeting Protocols, Vol. 133, Humana Press (2000) (ISBN: 0896033600); Joyner (ed.), Gene Targeting: A Practical Approach, Oxford University Press, Inc. (2000) (ISBN: 0199637938); Sedivy et al., Gene Targeting, Oxford University Press (1998) (ISBN: 071677013X); Tymms et al. (eds.), Gene Knockout Protocols, Humana Press (2000) (ISBN: 0896035727); Mak et al. (eds.), The Gene Knockout FactsBook, Vol. 2, Academic Press, Inc. (1998) (ISBN: 0124660444); Torres et al., Laboratory Protocols for Conditional Gene Targeting, Oxford University Press (1997) (ISBN: 019963677X); Vega (ed.), Gene Targeting, CRC Press, LLC (1994) (ISBN: 084938950X), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Where the genomic region includes

- transcription regulatory elements, homologous recombination can be used to alter the expression of context, both for purpose of in vitro production of human GRBP2 protein from human cells, and for purpose of gene therapy. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,981,214, 6,048,524; 5,272,071.

Fragments of the nucleic acids of the present invention smaller than those typically used for homologous recombination can also be used for targeted

gene correction or alteration, possibly by cellular mechanisms different from those engaged during homologous recombination.

For example, partially duplexed RNA/DNA
5 chimeras have been shown to have utility in targeted gene correction, U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,945,339, 5,888,983, 5,871,984, 5,795,972, 5,780,296, 5,760,012, 5,756,325, 5,731,181, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. So too have
10 small oligonucleotides fused to triplexing domains have been shown to have utility in targeted gene correction, Culver et al., "Correction of chromosomal point mutations in human cells with bifunctional oligonucleotides," Nature Biotechnol. 17(10):989-93
15 (1999), as have oligonucleotides having modified terminal bases or modified terminal internucleoside bonds, Gamper et al., Nucl. Acids Res. 28(21):4332-9 (2000), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

20 Nucleic acids of the present invention can be obtained by using the labeled probes of the present invention to probe nucleic acid samples, such as genomic libraries, cDNA libraries, and mRNA samples, by standard techniques. Nucleic acids of the present
25 invention can also be obtained by amplification, using the nucleic acid primers of the present invention, as further demonstrated in Example 1, herein below. Nucleic acids of the present invention of fewer than about 100 nt can also be synthesized chemically,
30 typically by solid phase synthesis using commercially available automated synthesizers.

"Full Length" Human GRBP2 Nucleic Acids

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In a fourth embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence that (i) encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 with conservative amino acid
5 substitutions, or the complement thereof, where SEQ ID NO: 3 provides the amino acid sequence of human GRBP2.

Selected Partial Nucleic Acids

In a first such embodiment, the invention provides isolated nucleic acids comprising (i) the
10 nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or (ii) the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, more typically no more than about 50 kb in
15 length. SEQ ID NO: 4 is the nucleotide sequence, drawn from both 5' UT and initial coding region, of the GRBP2 cDNA clone that is absent from the clone encoding the minor form of GRBP2 (AX077672) (see FIG. 1). Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no
20 more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising (i) the nucleotide
25 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 or (ii) the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, more typically no more than about 50 kb in length. SEQ
30 ID NO: 5 presents the 5' untranslated region of the GRBP2 cDNA, which is not found in the minor form (AX077672) of GRBP2 cDNA. Often, the isolated nucleic

acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising (i) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, (ii) a degenerate variant of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, or (iii) the complement of (i) or (ii), wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, more typically no more than about 50 kb in length. SEQ ID NO: 6 presents the nucleotide sequence of the 5' portion of the coding region of the GRBP2 cDNA not found in the alternative, minor, form of GRBP2 cDNA. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising (i) a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO: 7 or (ii) the complement of a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO: 7, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, frequently no more than about 50 kb in length. SEQ ID NO: 7 is the amino acid sequence encoded by the portion of GRBP2 not found in the alternative, minor, form of GRBP2. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising (i) a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO: 7 with conservative

substitutions, or (ii) the complement thereof, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length.

- 5 Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

Cross-Hybridizing Nucleic Acids

- 10 In another series of nucleic acid embodiments, the invention provides isolated nucleic acids that hybridize to various of the human GRBP2 nucleic acids of the present invention. These cross-hybridizing nucleic acids can be used, inter alia, as
15 probes for, and to drive expression of, proteins that are related to human GRBP2 of the present invention as further isoforms, homologues, paralogues, or orthologues.

- In a first such embodiment, the invention
20 provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a probe the nucleotide sequence of which consists of SEQ ID NO:4 or the complement of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in
25 length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than
30 about 10 kb in length.

In a further embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence

that hybridizes under moderate stringency conditions to a probe the nucleotide sequence of which consists of SEQ ID NO:4 or the complement of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb
5 in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than
10 about 10 kb in length.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a hybridization probe that consists of a nucleotide
15 sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO: 5 or the complement of SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic
20 acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

In yet another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence
25 that hybridizes under moderate stringency conditions to a hybridization probe consisting of a nucleotide sequence that encodes SEQ ID NO: 5 or the complement of SEQ ID NO: 5, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more
30 than about 75 kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

In an additional embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a hybridization probe the nucleotide sequence of which
5 consists of SEQ ID NO: 6 or the complement of SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of
10 this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

The invention further provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that hybridizes
15 under moderate stringency conditions to a hybridization probe the nucleotide sequence of which consists of SEQ ID NO: 6 or the complement of SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length,
20 and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

25 In a further embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to a hybridization probe the nucleotide sequence of which
(i) encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID
30 NO: 7, (ii) encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 with conservative amino acid substitutions, or (iii) is the complement of (i) or (ii), wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75

kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

Additionally, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a sequence that hybridizes under moderate stringency conditions to a hybridization probe the nucleotide sequence of which

10 (i) encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, (ii) encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 with conservative amino acid substitutions, or (iii) is the complement of (i) or

15 (ii), wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, and often no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and

20 frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

Preferred Nucleic Acids

Particularly preferred among the above-described nucleic acids are those that are expressed, or the complement of which are expressed, in kidney,

25 colon, adrenal, adult liver, bone marrow, brain, fetal liver, heart, hela, lung, placenta, prostate and skeletal muscle, preferably at a level greater than that in leukocytes, spleen, or thymus, typically at a level at least two-fold that in leukocytes, spleen, or

30 thymus, often at least three-fold, four-fold, or even five-fold that in leukocytes, spleen, or thymus.

Also particularly preferred among the above-described nucleic acids are those that encode, or the complement of which encode, a polypeptide having Rho binding and PDZ-domain binding specificity.

- 5 Other preferred embodiments of the nucleic acids above-described are those that encode, or the complement of which encode, a polypeptide having any or all of (1) at least one HRI domain, and (2) at least one PDZ domain.

10 Nucleic Acid Fragments

- In another series of nucleic acid embodiments, the invention provides fragments of various of the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention which prove useful, inter alia, as nucleic acid probes, as amplification primers, and to direct expression or synthesis of antigenic (epitopic) or immunogenic protein fragments.
- 15

- In a first such embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising at least 17 nucleotides, 18 nucleotides, 20 nucleotides, 24 nucleotides, or 25 nucleotides of (i) SEQ ID NO:4, (ii) a degenerate variant of SEQ ID NO:6, or (iii) the complement of (i) or (ii), wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, more typically no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.
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- 25
- 30

The invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising (i) a nucleotide sequence that

encodes a peptide of at least 8 contiguous amino acids
of SEQ ID NO: 7, or (ii) the complement of a nucleotide
sequence that encodes a peptide of at least 8
contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 7, wherein the
5 isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in
length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length,
more typically no more than about 50 kb in length.
Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment
are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more
10 than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than
about 10 kb in length.

The invention also provides an isolated
nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence that (i)
encodes a polypeptide having the sequence of at least 8
15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 7 with
conservative amino acid substitutions, or (ii) is the
complement of (i).

Single Exon Probes

The invention further provides genome-derived
20 single exon probes having portions of no more than one
exon of the human GRBP2 gene. As further described in
commonly owned and copending U.S. patent application
serial no. 09/632,366, the disclosure of which is
incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, such
25 single exon probes have particular utility in
identifying and characterizing splice variants. In
particular, such single exon probes are useful for
identifying and discriminating the expression of
distinct isoforms of human GRBP2.

30 In a first embodiment, the invention provides
an isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide
sequence of no more than one portion of SEQ ID NOs:8 -

22 or the complement of SEQ ID NOs: 8 - 22, wherein the portion comprises at least 17 contiguous nucleotides, 18 contiguous nucleotides, 20 contiguous nucleotides, 24 contiguous nucleotides, 25 contiguous nucleotides, 5 or 50 contiguous nucleotides of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 8 - 22, or their complement. In a further embodiment, the exonic portion comprises the entirety of the referenced SEQ ID NO: or its complement.

In other embodiments, the invention provides 10 isolated single exon probes having the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 23 - 37.

Transcription Control Nucleic Acids

In another aspect, the present invention provides genome-derived isolated nucleic acids that 15 include nucleic acid sequence elements that control transcription of the human GRBP2 gene. These nucleic acids can be used, inter alia, to drive expression of heterologous coding regions in recombinant constructs, thus conferring upon such heterologous coding regions 20 the expression pattern of the native human GRBP2 gene. These nucleic acids can also be used, conversely, to target heterologous transcription control elements to the human GRBP2 genomic locus, altering the expression pattern of the human GRBP2 gene itself.

25 In a first such embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 38 or its complement, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in 30 length, more typically no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length,

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often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising at least 17, 18, 20, 24, or 25 nucleotides of the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 38 or its complement, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is no more than about 100 kb in length, typically no more than about 75 kb in length, more typically no more than about 50 kb in length. Often, the isolated nucleic acids of this embodiment are no more than about 25 kb in length, often no more than about 15 kb in length, and frequently no more than about 10 kb in length.

VECTORS AND HOST CELLS

In another aspect, the present invention provides vectors that comprise one or more of the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention, and host cells in which such vectors have been introduced.

The vectors can be used, inter alia, for propagating the nucleic acids of the present invention in host cells (cloning vectors), for shuttling the nucleic acids of the present invention between host cells derived from disparate organisms (shuttle vectors), for inserting the nucleic acids of the present invention into host cell chromosomes (insertion vectors), for expressing sense or antisense RNA transcripts of the nucleic acids of the present invention in vitro or within a host cell, and for expressing polypeptides encoded by the nucleic acids of the present invention, alone or as fusions to heterologous polypeptides. Vectors of the present invention will often be suitable for several such uses.

- Vectors are by now well-known in the art, and are described, inter alia, in Jones et al. (eds.), Vectors: Cloning Applications : Essential Techniques (Essential Techniques Series), John Wiley & Son Ltd 1998 (ISBN: 047196266X); Jones et al. (eds.), Vectors: Expression Systems : Essential Techniques (Essential Techniques Series), John Wiley & Son Ltd, 1998 (ISBN:0471962678); Gacesa et al., Vectors: Essential Data, John Wiley & Sons, 1995 (ISBN: 0471948411);
- 10 Cid-Arregui (eds.), Viral Vectors: Basic Science and Gene Therapy, Eaton Publishing Co., 2000 (ISBN: 188129935X); Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (3rd ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2001 (ISBN: 0879695773); Ausubel et
- 15 al. (eds.), Short Protocols in Molecular Biology: A Compendium of Methods from Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (4th ed.), John Wiley & Sons, 1999 (ISBN: 047132938X), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.
- 20 Furthermore, an enormous variety of vectors are available commercially. Use of existing vectors and modifications thereof being well within the skill in the art, only basic features need be described here.
- Typically, vectors are derived from virus,
- 25 plasmid, prokaryotic or eukaryotic chromosomal elements, or some combination thereof, and include at least one origin of replication, at least one site for insertion of heterologous nucleic acid, typically in the form of a polylinker with multiple, tightly
- 30 clustered, single cutting restriction sites, and at least one selectable marker, although some integrative vectors will lack an origin that is functional in the host to be chromosomally modified, and some vectors

will lack selectable markers. Vectors of the present invention will further include at least one nucleic acid of the present invention inserted into the vector in at least one location.

- 5 Where present, the origin of replication and selectable markers are chosen based upon the desired host cell or host cells; the host cells, in turn, are selected based upon the desired application.

- For example, prokaryotic cells, typically
10 E. coli, are typically chosen for cloning. In such case, vector replication is predicated on the replication strategies of coliform-infecting phage - such as phage lambda, M13, T7, T3 and P1 - or on the replication origin of autonomously replicating
15 episomes, notably the ColE1 plasmid and later derivatives, including pBR322 and the pUC series plasmids. Where E. coli is used as host, selectable markers are, analogously, chosen for selectivity in gram negative bacteria: e.g., typical markers confer
20 resistance to antibiotics, such as ampicillin, tetracycline, chloramphenicol, kanamycin, streptomycin, zeocin; auxotrophic markers can also be used.

- As another example, yeast cells, typically *S. cerevisiae*, are chosen, inter alia, for eukaryotic
25 genetic studies, due to the ease of targeting genetic changes by homologous recombination and to the ready ability to complement genetic defects using recombinantly expressed proteins, for identification of interacting protein components, e.g. through use of a
30 two-hybrid system, and for protein expression. Vectors of the present invention for use in yeast will typically, but not invariably, contain an origin of replication suitable for use in yeast and a selectable marker that is functional in yeast.

Integrative YIp vectors do not replicate autonomously, but integrate, typically in single copy, into the yeast genome at low frequencies and thus replicate as part of the host cell chromosome; these
5 vectors lack an origin of replication that is functional in yeast, although they typically have at least one origin of replication suitable for propagation of the vector in bacterial cells. YIp vectors, in contrast, replicate episcopally and
10 autonomously due to presence of the yeast 2 micron plasmid origin (2 μ m ori). The YCp yeast centromere plasmid vectors are autonomously replicating vectors containing centromere sequences, CEN, and autonomously replicating sequences, ARS; the ARS sequences are
15 believed to correspond to the natural replication origins of yeast chromosomes. YACs are based on yeast linear plasmids, denoted YIp, containing homologous or heterologous DNA sequences that function as telomeres (TEL) *in vivo*, as well as containing yeast ARS (origins
20 of replication) and CEN (centromeres) segments.

Selectable markers in yeast vectors include a variety of auxotrophic markers, the most common of which are (in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) URA3, HIS3, LEU2, TRP1 and LYS2, which complement specific
25 auxotrophic mutations, such as *ura3-52*, *his3-D1*, *leu2-D1*, *trp1-D1* and *lys2-201*. The URA3 and LYS2 yeast genes further permit negative selection based on specific inhibitors, 5-fluoro-orotic acid (FOA) and α -aminoadipic acid (α AA), respectively, that prevent
30 growth of the prototrophic strains but allows growth of the *ura3* and *lys2* mutants, respectively. Other selectable markers confer resistance to, e.g., zeocin.

As yet another example, insect cells are often chosen for high efficiency protein expression.

Where the host cells are from *Spodoptera frugiperda* -
e.g., Sf9 and Sf21 cell lines, and expresSF™ cells
(Protein Sciences Corp., Meriden, CT, USA) - the vector
replicative strategy is typically based upon the
5 baculovirus life cycle. Typically, baculovirus
transfer vectors are used to replace the wild-type
AcMNPV polyhedrin gene with a heterologous gene of
interest. Sequences that flank the polyhedrin gene in
the wild-type genome are positioned 5' and 3' of the
10 expression cassette on the transfer vectors. Following
cotransfection with AcMNPV DNA, a homologous
recombination event occurs between these sequences
resulting in a recombinant virus carrying the gene of
interest and the polyhedrin or p10 promoter. Selection
15 can be based upon visual screening for lacZ fusion
activity.

As yet another example, mammalian cells are
often chosen for expression of proteins intended as
pharmaceutical agents, and are also chosen as host
20 cells for screening of potential agonist and
antagonists of a protein or a physiological pathway.

Where mammalian cells are chosen as host
cells, vectors intended for autonomous extrachromosomal
replication will typically include a viral origin, such
25 as the SV40 origin (for replication in cell lines
expressing the large T-antigen, such as COS1 and COS7
cells), the papillomavirus origin, or the EBV origin
for long term episomal replication (for use, e.g., in
293-EBNA cells, which constitutively express the EBV
30 EBNA-1 gene product and adenovirus E1A). Vectors
intended for integration, and thus replication as part
of the mammalian chromosome, can, but need not, include
an origin of replication functional in mammalian cells,
such as the SV40 origin. Vectors based upon viruses,

such as adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, vaccinia virus, and various mammalian retroviruses, will typically replicate according to the viral replicative strategy.

5 Selectable markers for use in mammalian cells include resistance to neomycin (G418), blasticidin, hygromycin and to zeocin, and selection based upon the purine salvage pathway using HAT medium.

10 Vectors of the present invention will also often include elements that permit in vitro transcription of RNA from the inserted heterologous nucleic acid. Such vectors typically include a phage promoter, such as that from T7, T3, or SP6, flanking the nucleic acid insert. Often two different such
15 promoters flank the inserted nucleic acid, permitting separate in vitro production of both sense and antisense strands.

Expression vectors of the present invention — that is, those vectors that will drive
20 expression of polypeptides from the inserted heterologous nucleic acid — will often include a variety of other genetic elements operatively linked to the protein-encoding heterologous nucleic acid insert, typically genetic elements that drive transcription,
25 such as promoters and enhancer elements, those that facilitate RNA processing, such as transcription termination and/or polyadenylation signals, and those that facilitate translation, such as ribosomal consensus sequences.

30 For example, vectors for expressing proteins of the present invention in prokaryotic cells, typically *E. coli*, will include a promoter, often a phage promoter, such as phage lambda pL promoter, the trc promoter, a hybrid derived from the trp and lac

promoters, the bacteriophage T7 promoter (in *E. coli* cells engineered to express the T7 polymerase), or the araBAD operon. Often, such prokaryotic expression vectors will further include transcription terminators, such as the aspA terminator, and elements that facilitate translation, such as a consensus ribosome binding site and translation termination codon, Schomer et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 83:8506-8510 (1986).

As another example, vectors for expressing proteins of the present invention in yeast cells, typically *S. cerevisiae*, will include a yeast promoter, such as the CYC1 promoter, the GAL1 promoter, ADH1 promoter, or the GPD promoter, and will typically have elements that facilitate transcription termination, such as the transcription termination signals from the CYC1 or ADH1 gene.

As another example, vectors for expressing proteins of the present invention in mammalian cells will include a promoter active in mammalian cells. Such promoters are often drawn from mammalian viruses - such as the enhancer-promoter sequences from the immediate early gene of the human cytomegalovirus (CMV), the enhancer-promoter sequences from the Rous sarcoma virus long terminal repeat (RSV LTR), and the enhancer-promoter from SV40. Often, expression is enhanced by incorporation of polyadenylation sites, such as the late SV40 polyadenylation site and the polyadenylation signal and transcription termination sequences from the bovine growth hormone (BGH) gene, and ribosome binding sites. Furthermore, vectors can include introns, such as intron II of rabbit β -globin gene and the SV40 splice elements.

Vector-drive protein expression can be constitutive or inducible.

Inducible vectors include either naturally inducible promoters, such as the trc promoter, which is regulated by the lac operon, and the pL promoter, which is regulated by tryptophan, the MMTV-LTR promoter, 5 which is inducible by dexamethasone, or can contain synthetic promoters and/or additional elements that confer inducible control on adjacent promoters. Examples of inducible synthetic promoters are the hybrid Plac/ara-1 promoter and the PLtetO-1 promoter. 10 The PLtetO-1 promoter takes advantage of the high expression levels from the PL promoter of phage lambda, but replaces the lambda repressor sites with two copies of operator 2 of the Tn10 tetracycline resistance operon, causing this promoter to be tightly 15 repressed by the Tet repressor protein and induced in response to tetracycline (Tc) and Tc derivatives such as anhydrotetracycline.

As another example of inducible elements, hormone response elements, such as the glucocorticoid 20 response element (GRE) and the estrogen response element (ERE), can confer hormone inducibility where vectors are used for expression in cells having the respective hormone receptors. To reduce background levels of expression, elements responsive to ecdysone, 25 an insect hormone, can be used instead, with coexpression of the ecdysone receptor.

Expression vectors can be designed to fuse the expressed polypeptide to small protein tags that facilitate purification and/or visualization.

30 For example, proteins can be expressed with a polyhistidine tag that facilitates purification of the fusion protein by immobilized metal affinity chromatography, for example using NiNTA resin (Qiagen Inc., Valencia, CA, USA) or TALON™ resin (cobalt

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immobilized affinity chromatography medium, Clontech Labs, Palo Alto, CA, USA). As another example, the fusion protein can include a chitin-binding tag and self-excising intein, permitting chitin-based

- 5 purification with self-removal of the fused tag (IMPACT™ system, New England Biolabs, Inc., Beverly, MA, USA). Alternatively, the fusion protein can include a calmodulin-binding peptide tag, permitting purification by calmodulin affinity resin (Stratagene, 10 La Jolla, CA, USA), or a specifically excisable fragment of the biotin carboxylase carrier protein, permitting purification of *in vivo* biotinylated protein using an avidin resin and subsequent tag removal (Promega, Madison, WI, USA).

- 15 Other tags include, for example, the Xpress epitope, detectable by anti-Xpress antibody (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), a myc tag, detectable by anti-myc tag antibody, the V5 epitope, detectable by anti-V5 antibody (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), FLAG® 20 epitope, detectable by anti-FLAG® antibody (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA, USA), and the HA epitope.

- For secretion of expressed proteins, vectors can include appropriate sequences that encode secretion signals, such as leader peptides. For example, the 25 pSecTag2 vectors (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) are 5.2 kb mammalian expression vectors that carry the secretion signal from the V-J2-C region of the mouse Ig kappa-chain for efficient secretion of recombinant proteins from a variety of mammalian cell lines.

- 30 Expression vectors can also be designed to fuse proteins encoded by the heterologous nucleic acid insert to polypeptides larger than purification and/or identification tags. Useful protein fusions include those that permit display of the encoded protein on the

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surface of a phage or cell, fusions to intrinsically fluorescent proteins, such as green fluorescent protein (GFP), fusions to the IgG Fc region, and fusions for use in two hybrid systems.

5 Vectors for phage display fuse the encoded polypeptide to, e.g., the gene III protein (pIII) or gene VIII protein (pVIII) for display on the surface of filamentous phage, such as M13. See Barbas et al., Phage Display: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2001) (ISBN 0-87969-546-3); Kay et al. (eds.), Phage Display of Peptides and Proteins: A Laboratory Manual, San Diego: Academic Press, Inc., 1996; Abelson et al. (eds.), Combinatorial Chemistry, Methods in Enzymology vol. 267, Academic Press (May 15 1996).

 Vectors for yeast display, e.g. the pYD1 yeast display vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), use the α -agglutinin yeast adhesion receptor to display recombinant protein on the surface of *S. cerevisiae*.
20 Vectors for mammalian display, e.g., the pDisplay™ vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), target recombinant proteins using an N-terminal cell surface targeting signal and a C-terminal transmembrane anchoring domain of platelet derived growth factor
25 receptor.

 A wide variety of vectors now exist that fuse proteins encoded by heterologous nucleic acids to the chromophore of the substrate-independent, intrinsically fluorescent green fluorescent protein from *Aequorea victoria* ("GFP") and its variants. These proteins are intrinsically fluorescent: the GFP-like chromophore is entirely encoded by its amino acid sequence and can
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fluoresce without requirement for cofactor or substrate.

Structurally, the GFP-like chromophore comprises an 11-stranded β -barrel (β -can) with a
5 central α -helix, the central α -helix having a conjugated π -resonance system that includes two aromatic ring systems and the bridge between them. The π -resonance system is created by autocatalytic cyclization among amino acids; cyclization proceeds
10 through an imidazolinone intermediate, with subsequent dehydrogenation by molecular oxygen at the C α -C β bond of a participating tyrosine.

The GFP-like chromophore can be selected from GFP-like chromophores found in naturally occurring
15 proteins, such as *A. victoria* GFP (GenBank accession number AAA27721), *Renilla reniformis* GFP, FP583 (GenBank accession no. AF168419) (DsRed), FP593 (AF272711), FP483 (AF168420), FP484 (AF168424), FP595 (AF246709), FP486 (AF168421), FP538 (AF168423), and
20 FP506 (AF168422), and need include only so much of the native protein as is needed to retain the chromophore's intrinsic fluorescence. Methods for determining the minimal domain required for fluorescence are known in the art. Li et al., "Deletions of the *Aequorea victoria*
25 Green Fluorescent Protein Define the Minimal Domain Required for Fluorescence," *J. Biol. Chem.* 272:28545-28549 (1997).

Alternatively, the GFP-like chromophore can be selected from GFP-like chromophores modified from
30 those found in nature. Typically, such modifications are made to improve recombinant production in heterologous expression systems (with or without change in protein sequence), to alter the excitation and/or emission spectra of the native protein, to facilitate

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Analogously, EYFP ("enhanced yellow fluorescent protein"), also available from Clontech Labs, contains four amino acid substitutions, different from EBFP, Ormö et al., Science 273:1392-1395 (1996), that shift the emission from green to yellowish-green. Citrine, an improved yellow fluorescent protein mutant, is described in Heikal et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 97:11996-12001 (2000). ECFP ("enhanced cyan fluorescent protein") (Clontech Labs, Palo Alto, CA, USA) contains six amino acid substitutions, one of which shifts the emission spectrum from green to cyan. Heim et al., Curr. Biol. 6:178-182 (1996); Miyawaki et al., Nature 388:882-887 (1997). The GFP-like chromophore of each of these GFP variants can usefully be included in the fusion proteins of the present invention.

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The GFP-like chromophore can also be drawn from other modified GFPs, including those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,124,128; 6,096,865; 6,090,919; 6,066,476; 6,054,321; 6,027,881; 5,968,750; 5,874,304; 5,804,387; 5,777,079; 5,741,668; and 5,625,048, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. See also Conn (ed.), Green Fluorescent Protein, Methods in Enzymol. Vol. 302, pp 378-394 (1999), incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. A variety of such modified chromophores are now commercially available and can readily be used in the fusion proteins of the present invention.

Fusions to the IgG Fc region increase serum half life of protein pharmaceutical products through interaction with the FcRn receptor (also denominated the FcRp receptor and the Brambell receptor, FcRb), further described in international patent application nos. WO 97/43316, WO 97/34631, WO 96/32478, WO 96/18412.

The present invention further includes host cells comprising the vectors of the present invention, either present episomally within the cell or integrated, in whole or in part, into the host cell chromosome.

As noted earlier, host cells can be prokaryotic or eukaryotic. Representative examples of appropriate host cells include, but are not limited to, bacterial cells, such as *E. coli*, *Caulobacter crescentus*, *Streptomyces* species, and *Salmonella typhimurium*; yeast cells, such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, *Pichia pastoris*, *Pichia methanolica*; insect cell lines, such as those from *Spodoptera frugiperda* - e.g., Sf9 and Sf21 cell

- lines, and expresSF™ cells (Protein Sciences Corp., Meriden, CT, USA) - Drosophila S2 cells, and Trichoplusia ni High Five® Cells (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA); and mammalian cells. Typical mammalian cells
- 5 include COS1 and COS7 cells, chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells, NIH 3T3 cells, 293 cells, HEPG2 cells, HeLa cells, L cells, murine ES cell lines (e.g., from strains 129/SV, C57/BL6, DBA-1, 129/SVJ), K562, Jurkat cells, and BW5147. Other mammalian cell lines are well
- 10 known and readily available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) (Manassas, VA, USA) and the National Institute of General medical Sciences (NIGMS) Human Genetic Cell Repository at the Coriell Cell Repositories (Camden, NJ, USA).
- 15 Methods for introducing the vectors and nucleic acids of the present invention into the host cells are well known in the art; the choice of technique will depend primarily upon the specific vector to be introduced.
- 20 For example, phage lambda vectors will typically be packaged using a packaging extract (e.g., Gigapack® packaging extract, Stratagene, La Jolla, CA, USA), and the packaged virus used to infect E. coli. Plasmid vectors will typically be introduced into
- 25 chemically competent or electrocompetent bacterial cells.
- E. coli cells can be rendered chemically competent by treatment, e.g., with CaCl₂, or a solution of Mg²⁺, Mn²⁺, Ca²⁺, Rb⁺ or K⁺, dimethyl sulfoxide,
- 30 dithiothreitol, and hexamine cobalt (III), Hanahan, J. Mol. Biol. 166(4):557-80 (1983), and vectors introduced by heat shock. A wide variety of chemically competent strains are also available commercially (e.g.,

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ordinary selective medium. Increased frequencies of transformation are obtained by using specially-prepared single-stranded carrier DNA and certain organic solvents. Schiestl et al., Curr. Genet. 16(5-6):339-46
5 (1989). For electroporation, freshly-grown yeast cultures are typically washed, suspended in an osmotic protectant, such as sorbitol, mixed with DNA, and the cell suspension pulsed in an electroporation device. Subsequently, the cells are spread on the surface of
10 plates containing selective media. Becker et al., Methods Enzymol. 194:182-7 (1991). The efficiency of transformation by electroporation can be increased over 100-fold by using PEG, single-stranded carrier DNA and cells that are in late log-phase of growth. Larger
15 constructs, such as YACs, can be introduced by protoplast fusion.

Mammalian and insect cells can be directly infected by packaged viral vectors, or transfected by chemical or electrical means.

20 For chemical transfection, DNA can be coprecipitated with CaPO₄ or introduced using liposomal and nonliposomal lipid-based agents. Commercial kits are available for CaPO₄ transfection (CalPhos™ Mammalian Transfection Kit, Clontech Laboratories, Palo
25 Alto, CA, USA), and lipid-mediated transfection can be practiced using commercial reagents, such as LIPOFECTAMINE™ 2000, LIPOFECTAMINE™ Reagent, CELLFECTIN® Reagent, and LIPOFECTIN® Reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), DOTAP Liposomal
30 Transfection Reagent, FuGENE 6, X-tremeGENE Q2, DOSPER, (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN USA), Effectene™, PolyFect®, Superfect® (Qiagen, Inc., Valencia, CA, USA). Protocols for electroporating mammalian cells can be found online in Electroprotocols

(Bio-Rad, Richmond, CA, USA) (http://www.bio-rad.com/LifeScience/pdf/New_Gene_Pulser.pdf).

- See also, Norton et al. (eds.), Gene Transfer Methods: Introducing DNA into Living Cells and
- 5 Organisms, BioTechniques Books, Eaton Publishing Co. (2000) (ISBN 1-881299-34-1), incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

PROTEINS

- In another aspect, the present invention
- 10 provides human GRBP2 proteins, various fragments thereof suitable for use as antigens (e.g., for epitope mapping) and for use as immunogens (e.g., for raising antibodies or as vaccines), fusions of human GRBP2 polypeptides and fragments to heterologous
- 15 polypeptides, and conjugates of the proteins, fragments, and fusions of the present invention to other moieties (e.g., to carrier proteins, to fluorophores).

- FIG. 3 presents the predicted amino acid
- 20 sequences encoded by the human GRBP2 cDNA clone. The amino acid sequence is further presented, respectively, in SEQ ID NO: 3.

- Unless otherwise indicated, amino acid sequences of the proteins of the present invention were
- 25 determined as a predicted translation from a nucleic acid sequence. Accordingly, any amino acid sequence presented herein may contain errors due to errors in the nucleic acid sequence, as described in detail above. Furthermore, single nucleotide polymorphisms
- 30 (SNPs) occur frequently in eukaryotic genomes - more than 1.4 million SNPs have already identified in the

human genome, International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium, Nature 409:860 - 921 (2001) - and the sequence determined from one individual of a species may differ from other allelic forms present within the
5 population. Small deletions and insertions can often be found that do not alter the function of the protein.

Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide proteins not only identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein,
10 but also to provide isolated proteins at least about 90% identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, typically at least about 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, or 95% identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, usefully at least
15 about 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, and, most conservatively, at least about 99.5%, 99.6%, 99.7%, 99.8% and 99.9% identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein. These sequence
20 variants can be naturally occurring or can result from human intervention by way of random or directed mutagenesis.

For purposes herein, percent identity of two amino acid sequences is determined using the procedure
25 of Tatiana et al., "Blast 2 sequences - a new tool for comparing protein and nucleotide sequences", FEMS Microbiol Lett. 174:247-250 (1999), which procedure is effectuated by the computer program BLAST 2 SEQUENCES, available online at

30 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/bl2seq/bl2.html>,

To assess percent identity of amino acid sequences, the BLASTP module of BLAST 2 SEQUENCES is

used with default values of (i) BLOSUM62 matrix,
Henikoff et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA
89(22):10915-9 (1992); (ii) open gap 11 and extension
gap 1 penalties; and (iii) gap x_dropoff 50 expect 10
5 word size 3 filter, and both sequences are entered in
their entirety.

As is well known, amino acid substitutions
occur frequently among natural allelic variants, with
conservative substitutions often occasioning only de
10 minimis change in protein function.

Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present
invention to provide proteins not only identical in
sequence to those described with particularity herein,
but also to provide isolated proteins having the
15 sequence of human GRBP2 proteins, or portions thereof,
with conservative amino acid substitutions, and to
provide isolated proteins having the sequence of human
GRBP2 proteins, and portions thereof, with moderately
conservative amino acid substitutions. These
20 conservatively-substituted or moderately
conservatively-substituted variants can be naturally
occurring or can result from human intervention.

Although there are a variety of metrics for
calling conservative amino acid substitutions, based
25 primarily on either observed changes among
evolutionarily related proteins or on predicted
chemical similarity, for purposes herein a conservative
replacement is any change having a positive value in
the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix reproduced herein
30 below (see Gonnet et al., Science 256(5062):1443-5
(1992)):

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
A	2	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	-2	0	1	1	-4	-2	0

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	R	-1	5	0	0	-2	2	0	-1	1	-2	-2	3	-2	-3	-1	0	0	-2	-2	-2
	N	0	0	4	2	-2	1	1	0	1	-3	-3	1	-2	-3	-1	1	0	-4	-1	-2
	D	0	0	2	5	-3	1	3	0	0	-4	-4	0	-3	-4	-1	0	0	-5	-3	-3
	C	0	-2	-2	-3	12	-2	-3	-2	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	-3	0	0	-1	0	0
5	Q	0	2	1	1	-2	3	2	-1	1	-2	-2	2	-1	-3	0	0	0	-3	-2	-2
	E	0	0	1	3	-3	2	4	-1	0	-3	-3	1	-2	-4	0	0	0	-4	-3	-2
	G	0	-1	0	0	-2	-1	-1	7	-1	-4	-4	-1	-4	-5	-2	0	-1	-4	-4	-3
	H	-1	1	1	0	-1	1	0	-1	6	-2	-2	1	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	2	-2
	I	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-2	4	3	-2	2	1	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	3
10	L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-2	-2	-3	-4	-2	3	4	-2	3	2	-2	-1	-1	0	2	
	K	0	3	1	0	-3	2	1	-1	1	-2	-2	3	-1	-3	-1	0	0	-4	-2	-2
	M	-1	-2	-2	-3	-1	-1	-2	-4	-1	2	3	-1	4	2	-2	-1	-1	-1	0	2
	F	-2	-3	-3	-4	-1	-3	-4	-5	0	1	2	-3	2	7	-4	-3	-2	4	5	0
	P	0	-1	-1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	-1	-3	-2	-1	-2	-4	8	0	0	-5	-3	-2
15	S	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2	-2	0	-1	-3	0	2	2	-3	-2	-1
	T	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	-2	0	2	2	-4	-2	0
	W	-4	-2	-4	-5	-1	-3	-4	-4	-1	-2	-1	-4	-1	4	-5	-3	-4	14	4	-3
	Y	-2	-2	-1	-3	0	-2	-3	-4	2	-1	0	-2	0	5	-3	-2	-2	4	8	-1
	V	0	-2	-2	-3	0	-2	-2	-3	-2	3	2	-2	2	0	-2	-1	0	-3	-1	3

20 For purposes herein, a "moderately conservative" replacement is any change having a nonnegative value in the PAM250 log-likelihood matrix reproduced herein above.

25 As is also well known in the art, relatedness of proteins can also be characterized using a functional test, the ability of the encoding nucleic acids to base-pair to one another at defined hybridization stringencies.

30 It is, therefore, another aspect of the invention to provide isolated proteins not only identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, but also to provide isolated proteins ("hybridization related proteins") that are encoded by nucleic acids that hybridize under high
35 stringency conditions (as defined herein above) to all or to a portion of various of the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention ("reference nucleic acids"). It is a further aspect of the invention to provide isolated proteins ("hybridization related
40 proteins") that are encoded by nucleic acids that

hybridize under moderate stringency conditions (as defined herein above) to all or to a portion of various of the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention ("reference nucleic acids").

5 The hybridization related proteins can be
alternative isoforms, homologues, paralogues, and
orthologues of the human GRBP2 protein of the present
invention. Particularly preferred orthologues are
those from other primate species, such as chimpanzee,
10 rhesus macaque, baboon, and gorilla, from rodents, such
as rats, mice, guinea pigs, and from livestock, such as
cow, pig, sheep, horse, goat.

Relatedness of proteins can also be characterized using a second functional test, the ability of a first protein competitively to inhibit the binding of a second protein to an antibody.

It is, therefore, another aspect of the present invention to provide isolated proteins not only identical in sequence to those described with particularity herein, but also to provide isolated proteins ("cross-reactive proteins") that competitively inhibit the binding of antibodies to all or to a portion of various of the isolated human GRBP2 proteins of the present invention ("reference proteins"). Such competitive inhibition can readily be determined using immunoassays well known in the art.

Among the proteins of the present invention that differ in amino acid sequence from those described with particularity herein - including those that have 30 deletions and insertions causing up to 10% non-identity, those having conservative or moderately conservative substitutions, hybridization related proteins, and cross-reactive proteins - those that substantially retain one or more human GRBP2 activities

are preferred. As described above, those activities include protein - protein interaction with Rho and/or PDZ domain containing proteins.

Residues that are tolerant of change while retaining function can be identified by altering the protein at known residues using methods known in the art, such as alanine scanning mutagenesis, Cunningham et al., Science 244(4908):1081-5 (1989); transposon linker scanning mutagenesis, Chen et al., Gene 263(1-2):39-48 (2001); combinations of homolog- and alanine-scanning mutagenesis, Jin et al., J. Mol. Biol. 226(3):851-65 (1992); combinatorial alanine scanning, Weiss et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA 97(16):8950-4 (2000), followed by functional assay. Transposon linker scanning kits are available commercially (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA, USA, catalog. no. E7-102S; EZ::TN[™] In-Frame Linker Insertion Kit, catalogue no. EZI04KN, Epicentre Technologies Corporation, Madison, WI, USA).

As further described below, the isolated proteins of the present invention can readily be used as specific immunogens to raise antibodies that specifically recognize human GRBP2 proteins, their isoforms, homologues, paralogues, and/or orthologues. The antibodies, in turn, can be used, inter alia, specifically to assay for the human GRBP2 proteins of the present invention - e.g. by ELISA for detection of protein fluid samples, such as serum, by immunohistochemistry or laser scanning cytometry, for detection of protein in tissue samples, or by flow cytometry, for detection of intracellular protein in cell suspensions - for specific antibody-mediated isolation and/or purification of human GRBP2 proteins,

as for example by immunoprecipitation, and for use as specific agonists or antagonists of human GRBP2 action.

The isolated proteins of the present invention are also immediately available for use as
5 specific standards in assays used to determine the concentration and/or amount specifically of the human GRBP2 proteins of the present invention. For example, ELISA kits for detection and quantitation of protein analytes include purified protein of known
10 concentration for use as a measurement standard (e.g., the human interferon- γ OptEIA kit, catalog no. 555142, Pharmingen, San Diego, CA, USA includes human recombinant gamma interferon, baculovirus produced).

The isolated proteins of the present
15 invention are also immediately available for use as specific biomolecule capture probes for surface-enhanced laser desorption ionization (SELDI) detection of protein-protein interactions, WO 98/59362; WO 98/59360; WO 98/59361; and Merchant et al.,
20 Electrophoresis 21(6):1164-77 (2000), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The isolated proteins of the present invention are also immediately available for use as specific biomolecule capture probes on BIACORE surface
25 plasmon resonance probes.

The isolated proteins of the present invention are also useful as a therapeutic supplement in patients having a specific deficiency in human GRBP2 production.

30 In another aspect, the invention also provides fragments of various of the proteins of the present invention. The protein fragments are useful, inter alia, as antigenic and immunogenic fragments of human GRBP2.

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By "fragments" of a protein is here intended isolated proteins (equally, polypeptides, peptides, oligopeptides), however obtained, that have an amino acid sequence identical to a portion of the reference amino acid sequence, which portion is at least 6 amino acids and less than the entirety of the reference nucleic acid. As so defined, "fragments" need not be obtained by physical fragmentation of the reference protein, although such provenance is not thereby precluded.

Fragments of at least 6 contiguous amino acids are useful in mapping B cell and T cell epitopes of the reference protein. See, e.g., Geysen et al., "Use of peptide synthesis to probe viral antigens for epitopes to a resolution of a single amino acid," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:3998-4002 (1984) and U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,708,871 and 5,595,915, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. Because the fragment need not itself be immunogenic, part of an immunodominant epitope, nor even recognized by native antibody, to be useful in such epitope mapping, all fragments of at least 6 amino acids of the proteins of the present invention have utility in such a study.

Fragments of at least 8 contiguous amino acids, often at least 15 contiguous amino acids, have utility as immunogens for raising antibodies that recognize the proteins of the present invention. See, e.g., Lerner, "Tapping the immunological repertoire to produce antibodies of predetermined specificity," *Nature* 299:592-596 (1982); Shinnick et al., "Synthetic peptide immunogens as vaccines," *Annu. Rev. Microbiol.* 37:425-46 (1983); Sutcliffe et al., "Antibodies that

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react with predetermined sites on proteins," Science 219:660-6 (1983), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. As further described in the above-cited references, 5 virtually all 8-mers, conjugated to a carrier, such as a protein, prove immunogenic - that is, prove capable of eliciting antibody for the conjugated peptide; accordingly, all fragments of at least 8 amino acids of the proteins of the present invention have utility as 10 immunogens.

Fragments of at least 8, 9, 10 or 12 contiguous amino acids are also useful as competitive inhibitors of binding of the entire protein, or a portion thereof, to antibodies (as in epitope mapping), 15 and to natural binding partners, such as subunits in a multimeric complex or to receptors or ligands of the subject protein; this competitive inhibition permits identification and separation of molecules that bind specifically to the protein of interest, U.S. Pat. Nos. 20 5,539,084 and 5,783,674, incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

The protein, or protein fragment, of the present invention is thus at least 6 amino acids in length, typically at least 8, 9, 10 or 12 amino acids 25 in length, and often at least 15 amino acids in length. Often, the protein or the present invention, or fragment thereof, is at least 20 amino acids in length, even 25 amino acids, 30 amino acids, 35 amino acids, or 50 amino acids or more in length. Of course, larger 30 fragments having at least 75 amino acids, 100 amino acids, or even 150 amino acids are also useful, and at times preferred.

The present invention further provides fusions of the proteins and protein fragments of the present invention to heterologous polypeptides.

By fusion is here intended that the protein
5 or protein fragment of the present invention is linearly contiguous to the heterologous polypeptide in a polymer of amino acids or amino acid analogues; by "heterologous polypeptide" is here intended a polypeptide that does not naturally occur in contiguity
10 with the protein or protein fragment of the present invention. As so defined, the fusion can consist entirely of a plurality of fragments of the human GRBP2 protein in altered arrangement; in such case, any of the human GRBP2 fragments can be considered
15 heterologous to the other human GRBP2 fragments in the fusion protein. More typically, however, the heterologous polypeptide is not drawn from the human GRBP2 protein itself.

The fusion proteins of the present invention
20 will include at least one fragment of the protein of the present invention, which fragment is at least 6, typically at least 8, often at least 15, and usefully at least 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 amino acids long. The fragment of the protein of the present to be included
25 in the fusion can usefully be at least 25 amino acids long, at least 50 amino acids long, and can be at least 75, 100, or even 150 amino acids long. Fusions that include the entirety of the proteins of the present invention have particular utility.

30 The heterologous polypeptide included within the fusion protein of the present invention is at least 6 amino acids in length, often at least 8 amino acids in length, and usefully at least 15, 20, and 25 amino acids in length. Fusions that include larger

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polypeptides, such as the IgG Fc region, and even entire proteins (such as GFP chromophore-containing proteins), have particular utility.

As described above in the description of
5 vectors and expression vectors of the present invention, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, heterologous polypeptides to be included in the fusion proteins of the present invention can usefully include those designed to
10 facilitate purification and/or visualization of recombinantly-expressed proteins. Although purification tags can also be incorporated into fusions that are chemically synthesized, chemical synthesis typically provides sufficient purity that further
15 purification by HPLC suffices; however, visualization tags as above described retain their utility even when the protein is produced by chemical synthesis, and when so included render the fusion proteins of the present invention useful as directly detectable markers of
20 human GRBP2 presence.

As also discussed above, heterologous polypeptides to be included in the fusion proteins of the present invention can usefully include those that facilitate secretion of recombinantly expressed
25 proteins - into the periplasmic space or extracellular milieu for prokaryotic hosts, into the culture medium for eukaryotic cells - through incorporation of secretion signals and/or leader sequences.

Other useful protein fusions of the present
30 invention include those that permit use of the protein of the present invention as bait in a yeast two-hybrid system. See Bartel *et al.* (eds.), *The Yeast Two-Hybrid System*, Oxford University Press (1997) (ISBN: 0195109384); Zhu *et al.*, *Yeast Hybrid Technologies*,

Eaton Publishing, (2000) (ISBN 1-881299-15-5); Fields
et al., Trends Genet. 10(8):286-92 (1994); Mendelsohn
et al., Curr. Opin. Biotechnol. 5(5):482-6 (1994);
Luban et al., Curr. Opin. Biotechnol. 6(1):59-64
5 (1995); Allen et al., Trends Biochem. Sci. 20(12):511-6
(1995); Drees, Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 3(1):64-70
(1999); Topcu et al., Pharm. Res. 17(9):1049-55 (2000);
Fashena et al., Gene 250(1-2):1-14 (2000), the
disclosures of which are incorporated herein by
10 reference in their entireties. Typically, such fusion
is to either E. coli LexA or yeast GAL4 DNA binding
domains. Related bait plasmids are available that
express the bait fused to a nuclear localization
signal.

15 Other useful protein fusions include those
that permit display of the encoded protein on the
surface of a phage or cell, fusions to intrinsically
fluorescent proteins, such as green fluorescent protein
(GFP), and fusions to the IgG Fc region, as described
20 above, which discussion is incorporated here by
reference in its entirety.

The proteins and protein fragments of the
present invention can also usefully be fused to protein
toxins, such as Pseudomonas exotoxin A, diphtheria
25 toxin, shiga toxin A, anthrax toxin lethal factor,
ricin, in order to effect ablation of cells that bind
or take up the proteins of the present invention.

The isolated proteins, protein fragments, and
protein fusions of the present invention can be
30 composed of natural amino acids linked by native
peptide bonds, or can contain any or all of nonnatural
amino acid analogues, nonnative bonds, and post-
synthetic (post translational) modifications, either

throughout the length of the protein or localized to one or more portions thereof.

As is well known in the art, when the isolated protein is used, e.g., for epitope mapping, the range of such nonnatural analogues, nonnative inter-residue bonds, or post-synthesis modifications will be limited to those that permit binding of the peptide to antibodies. When used as an immunogen for the preparation of antibodies in a non-human host, such as a mouse, the range of such nonnatural analogues, nonnative inter-residue bonds, or post-synthesis modifications will be limited to those that do not interfere with the immunogenicity of the protein. When the isolated protein is used as a therapeutic agent, such as a vaccine or for replacement therapy, the range of such changes will be limited to those that do not confer toxicity upon the isolated protein.

Non-natural amino acids can be incorporated during solid phase chemical synthesis or by recombinant techniques, although the former is typically more common.

For example, D-enantiomers of natural amino acids can readily be incorporated during chemical peptide synthesis: peptides assembled from D-amino acids are more resistant to proteolytic attack; incorporation of D-enantiomers can also be used to confer specific three dimensional conformations on the peptide. Other amino acid analogues commonly added during chemical synthesis include ornithine, norleucine, phosphorylated amino acids (typically phosphoserine, phosphothreonine, phosphotyrosine), L-malonyltyrosine, a non-hydrolyzable analog of phosphotyrosine (Kole et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res.

Com. 209:817-821 (1995)), and various halogenated phenylalanine derivatives.

Amino acid analogues having detectable labels are also usefully incorporated during synthesis to
5 provide a labeled polypeptide.

Biotin, for example (indirectly detectable through interaction with avidin, streptavidin, neutravidin, captavidin, or anti-biotin antibody), can be added using biotinoyl--(9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl)-
10 L-lysine (FMOC biocytin) (Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR, USA). (Biotin can also be added enzymatically by incorporation into a fusion protein of a E. coli BirA substrate peptide.)

The FMOC and tBOC derivatives of
15 dabcyL-L-lysine (Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR, USA) can be used to incorporate the dabcyL chromophore at selected sites in the peptide sequence during synthesis. The aminonaphthalene derivative EDANS, the most common fluorophore for pairing with the dabcyL
20 quencher in fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) systems, can be introduced during automated synthesis of peptides by using EDANS--FMOC-L-glutamic acid or the corresponding tBOC derivative (both from Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR, USA).
25 Tetramethylrhodamine fluorophores can be incorporated during automated FMOC synthesis of peptides using (FMOC)--TMR-L-lysine (Molecular Probes, Inc. Eugene, OR, USA).

Other useful amino acid analogues that can be
30 incorporated during chemical synthesis include aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, and tyrosine analogues having allyl side-chain protection (Applied Biosystems, Inc., Foster City, CA, USA); the allyl side chain

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permits synthesis of cyclic, branched-chain, sulfonated, glycosylated, and phosphorylated peptides.

- A large number of other FMOC-protected non-natural amino acid analogues capable of incorporation during chemical synthesis are available commercially, including, e.g., Fmoc-2-aminobicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-carboxylic acid, Fmoc-3-endo-aminobicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-endo-carboxylic acid, Fmoc-3-exo-aminobicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2-exo-carboxylic acid, Fmoc-3-endo-amino-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-endo-carboxylic acid, Fmoc-3-exo-amino-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-2-exo-carboxylic acid, Fmoc-cis-2-amino-1-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, Fmoc-trans-2-amino-1-cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, Fmoc-1-amino-1-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid, Fmoc-cis-2-amino-1-cyclopentanecarboxylic acid, Fmoc-1-amino-1-cyclopropanecarboxylic acid, Fmoc-D-2-amino-4-(ethylthio)butyric acid, Fmoc-L-2-amino-4-(ethylthio)butyric acid, Fmoc-L-buthionine, Fmoc-S-methyl-L-Cysteine, Fmoc-2-aminobenzoic acid (anthranillic acid), Fmoc-3-aminobenzoic acid, Fmoc-4-aminobenzoic acid, Fmoc-2-aminobenzophenone-2'-carboxylic acid, Fmoc-N-(4-aminobenzoyl)-b-alanine, Fmoc-2-amino-4,5-dimethoxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-4-aminohippuric acid, Fmoc-2-amino-3-hydroxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-2-amino-5-hydroxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-3-amino-4-hydroxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-4-amino-3-hydroxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-4-amino-2-hydroxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-5-amino-2-hydroxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-2-amino-3-methoxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-4-amino-3-methoxybenzoic acid, Fmoc-2-amino-3-methylbenzoic acid, Fmoc-2-amino-5-methylbenzoic acid, Fmoc-2-amino-6-methylbenzoic acid, Fmoc-3-amino-2-methylbenzoic acid, Fmoc-3-amino-4-methylbenzoic acid, Fmoc-4-amino-3-methylbenzoic acid, Fmoc-3-amino-

2-naphtioic acid, Fmoc-D,L-3-amino-3-phenylpropionic acid, Fmoc-L-Methyldopa, Fmoc-2-amino-4,6-dimethyl-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid, Fmoc-D,L-?-amino-2-thiophenacetic acid, Fmoc-4-(carboxymethyl)piperazine, 5 Fmoc-4-carboxypiperazine, Fmoc-4-(carboxymethyl)homopiperazine, Fmoc-4-phenyl-4-piperidinecarboxylic acid, Fmoc-L-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronorharman-3-carboxylic acid, Fmoc-L-thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, all available from The 10 Peptide Laboratory (Richmond, CA, USA).

Non-natural residues can also be added biosynthetically by engineering a suppressor tRNA, typically one that recognizes the UAG stop codon, by chemical aminoacylation with the desired unnatural 15 amino acid and. Conventional site-directed mutagenesis is used to introduce the chosen stop codon UAG at the site of interest in the protein gene. When the acylated suppressor tRNA and the mutant gene are combined in an in vitro transcription/translation 20 system, the unnatural amino acid is incorporated in response to the UAG codon to give a protein containing that amino acid at the specified position. Liu et al., Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA 96(9):4780-5 (1999).

The isolated proteins, protein fragments and 25 fusion proteins of the present invention can also include nonnative inter-residue bonds, including bonds that lead to circular and branched forms.

The isolated proteins and protein fragments of the present invention can also include post- 30 translational and post-synthetic modifications, either throughout the length of the protein or localized to one or more portions thereof.

For example, when produced by recombinant expression in eukaryotic cells, the isolated proteins,

fragments, and fusion proteins of the present invention will typically include N-linked and/or O-linked glycosylation, the pattern of which will reflect both the availability of glycosylation sites on the protein
5 sequence and the identity of the host cell. Further modification of glycosylation pattern can be performed enzymatically.

As another example, recombinant polypeptides of the invention may also include an initial modified
10 methionine residue, in some cases resulting from host-mediated processes.

When the proteins, protein fragments, and protein fusions of the present invention are produced by chemical synthesis, post-synthetic modification can
15 be performed before deprotection and cleavage from the resin or after deprotection and cleavage. Modification before deprotection and cleavage of the synthesized protein often allows greater control, e.g. by allowing targeting of the modifying moiety to the N-terminus of
20 a resin-bound synthetic peptide.

Useful post-synthetic (and post-translational) modifications include conjugation to detectable labels, such as fluorophores.

A wide variety of amine-reactive and thiol-reactive fluorophore derivatives have been synthesized
25 that react under nondenaturing conditions with N-terminal amino groups and epsilon amino groups of lysine residues, on the one hand, and with free thiol groups of cysteine residues, on the other.

Kits are available commercially that permit
30 conjugation of proteins to a variety of amine-reactive or thiol-reactive fluorophores: Molecular Probes, Inc. (Eugene, OR, USA), e.g., offers kits for conjugating proteins to Alexa Fluor 350, Alexa Fluor 430,

Fluorescein-EX, Alexa Fluor 488, Oregon Green 488, Alexa Fluor 532, Alexa Fluor 546, Alexa Fluor 546, Alexa Fluor 568, Alexa Fluor 594, and Texas Red-X.

- A wide variety of other amine-reactive and
- 5 thiol-reactive fluorophores are available commercially (Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR, USA), including Alexa Fluor® 350, Alexa Fluor® 488, Alexa Fluor® 532, Alexa Fluor® 546, Alexa Fluor® 568, Alexa Fluor® 594, Alexa Fluor® 647 (monoclonal antibody labeling kits
- 10 available from Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR, USA), BODIPY dyes, such as BODIPY 493/503, BODIPY FL, BODIPY R6G, BODIPY 530/550, BODIPY TMR, BODIPY 558/568, BODIPY 558/568, BODIPY 564/570, BODIPY 576/589, BODIPY 581/591, BODIPY TR, BODIPY 630/650, BODIPY 650/665,
- 15 Cascade Blue, Cascade Yellow, Dansyl, lissamine rhodamine B, Marina Blue, Oregon Green 488, Oregon Green 514, Pacific Blue, rhodamine 6G, rhodamine green, rhodamine red, tetramethylrhodamine, Texas Red (available from Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR,
- 20 USA).

The polypeptides of the present invention can also be conjugated to fluorophores, other proteins, and other macromolecules, using bifunctional linking reagents.

- 25 Common homobifunctional reagents include, e.g., APG, AEDP, BASED, BMB, BMDB, BMH, BMOE, BM[PEO]3, BM[PEO]4, BS3, BSOCES, DFDNB, DMA, DMP, DMS, DPDPB, DSG, DSP (Lomant's Reagent), DSS, DST, DTBP, DTME, DTSSP, EGS, HBVS, Sulfo-BSOCES, Sulfo-DST, Sulfo-EGS
- 30 (all available from Pierce, Rockford, IL, USA); common heterobifunctional cross-linkers include ABH, AMAS, ANB-NOS, APDP, ASBA, BMPA, BMPH, BMPS, EDC, EMCA, EMCH, EMCS, KMUA, KMUH, GMBS, LC-SMCC, LC-SPDP, MBS, M2C2H, MPBH, MSA, NHS-ASA, PDPH, PMPI, SADP, SAED, SAND,

SANPAH, SASD, SATP, SBAP, SFAD, SIA, SIAB, SMCC, SMPB, SMPH, SMPT, SPDP, Sulfo-EMCS, Sulfo-GMBS, Sulfo-HSAB, Sulfo-KMUS, Sulfo-LC-SPDP, Sulfo-MBS, Sulfo-NHS-LC-ASA, Sulfo-SADP, Sulfo-SANPAH, Sulfo-SIAB, Sulfo-SMCC,
5 Sulfo-SMPB, Sulfo-LC-SMPT, SVSB, TFCS (all available Pierce, Rockford, IL, USA).

The proteins, protein fragments, and protein fusions of the present invention can be conjugated, using such cross-linking reagents, to fluorophores that
10 are not amine- or thiol-reactive.

Other labels that usefully can be conjugated to the proteins, protein fragments, and fusion proteins of the present invention include radioactive labels, echosonographic contrast reagents, and MRI contrast
15 agents.

The proteins, protein fragments, and protein fusions of the present invention can also usefully be conjugated using cross-linking agents to carrier proteins, such as KLH, bovine thyroglobulin, and even
20 bovine serum albumin (BSA), to increase immunogenicity for raising anti-human GRBP2 antibodies.

The proteins, protein fragments, and protein fusions of the present invention can also usefully be conjugated to polyethylene glycol (PEG); PEGylation
25 increases the serum half life of proteins administered intravenously for replacement therapy. Delgado et al., Crit. Rev. Ther. Drug Carrier Syst. 9(3-4):249-304 (1992); Scott et al., Curr. Pharm. Des. 4(6):423-38 (1998); DeSantis et al., Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.
30 10(4):324-30 (1999), incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. PEG monomers can be attached to the protein directly or through a linker, with PEGylation using PEG monomers activated with tresyl

chloride (2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulphonyl chloride) permitting direct attachment under mild conditions.

The isolated proteins of the present invention, including fusions thereof, can be produced
5 by recombinant expression, typically using the expression vectors of the present invention as above-described or, if fewer than about 100 amino acids, by chemical synthesis (typically, solid phase synthesis), and, on occasion, by in vitro translation.

10 Production of the isolated proteins of the present invention can optionally be followed by purification.

Purification of recombinantly expressed proteins is now well within the skill in the art. See,
15 e.g., Thorner et al. (eds.), Applications of Chimeric Genes and Hybrid Proteins, Part A: Gene Expression and Protein Purification (Methods in Enzymology, Volume 326), Academic Press (2000), (ISBN: 0121822273); Harbin (ed.), Cloning, Gene Expression and Protein
20 Purification : Experimental Procedures and Process Rationale, Oxford Univ. Press (2001) (ISBN: 0195132947); Marshak et al., Strategies for Protein Purification and Characterization: A Laboratory Course Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1996)
25 (ISBN: 0-87969-385-1); and Roe (ed.), Protein Purification Applications, Oxford University Press (2001), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties, and thus need not be detailed here.

30 Briefly, however, if purification tags have been fused through use of an expression vector that appends such tag, purification can be effected, at least in part, by means appropriate to the tag, such as use of immobilized metal affinity chromatography for

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5 and preparative gel electrophoresis.

Purification of chemically-synthesized peptides can readily be effected, e.g., by HPLC.

Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide the isolated proteins of the present invention in pure or substantially pure form.

A purified protein of the present invention is an isolated protein, as above described, that is present at a concentration of at least 95%, as measured on a weight basis (w/w) with respect to total protein in a composition. Such purities can often be obtained during chemical synthesis without further purification, as, e.g., by HPLC. Purified proteins of the present invention can be present at a concentration (measured on a weight basis with respect to total protein in a composition) of 96%, 97%, 98%, and even 99%. The proteins of the present invention can even be present at levels of 99.5%, 99.6%, and even 99.7%, 99.8%, or even 99.9% following purification, as by HPLC.

Although high levels of purity are preferred
25 when the isolated proteins of the present invention are
used as therapeutic agents - such as vaccines, or for
replacement therapy - the isolated proteins of the
present invention are also useful at lower purity. For
example, partially purified proteins of the present
30 invention can be used as immunogens to raise antibodies
in laboratory animals.

Thus, in another aspect, the present invention provides the isolated proteins of the present invention in substantially purified form. A

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include polymethylacrylic, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacrylate, polymethylmethacrylate, polyvinylchloride, polytetrafluoroethylene, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polyacetal, polysulfone, 5 celluloseacetate, cellulosenitrate, nitrocellulose, or mixtures thereof; when the assay is performed in standard microtiter dish, the plastic is typically polystyrene.

10 The proteins, fragments, and fusions of the present invention can also be attached to a substrate suitable for use as a surface enhanced laser desorption ionization source; so attached, the protein, fragment, or fusion of the present invention is useful for binding and then detecting secondary proteins that bind 15 with sufficient affinity or avidity to the surface-bound protein to indicate biologic interaction therebetween. The proteins, fragments, and fusions of the present invention can also be attached to a substrate suitable for use in surface plasmon resonance 20 detection; so attached, the protein, fragment, or fusion of the present invention is useful for binding and then detecting secondary proteins that bind with sufficient affinity or avidity to the surface-bound protein to indicate biological interaction 25 therebetween.

Human GRBP2 Proteins

In a first series of protein embodiments, the invention provides an isolated human GRBP2 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence encoded by the assembled 30 consensus nucleotide sequence of the four overlapping cDNAs deposited at the ATCC on June 27, 2001 and collectively accorded accession no. _____, or the

amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 3, which are full length human GRBP2 proteins. When used as immunogens, the full length proteins of the present invention can be used, inter alia, to elicit antibodies that bind to
5 a variety of epitopes of the several forms of human GRBP2 protein.

The invention further provides fragments of the above-described polypeptides, particularly fragments having at least 6 amino acids, typically at
10 least 8 amino acids, often at least 15 amino acids, and even the entirety of the sequence given in SEQ ID NO:7.

As described above, the invention further provides proteins that differ in sequence from those described with particularity in the above-referenced
15 SEQ ID NOs., whether by way of insertion or deletion, by way of conservative or moderately conservative substitutions, as hybridization related proteins, or as cross-hybridizing proteins, with those that substantially retain a human GRBP2 activity preferred.

20 The invention further provides fusions of the proteins and protein fragments herein described to heterologous polypeptides.

ANTIBODIES AND ANTIBODY-PRODUCING CELLS

In another aspect, the invention provides
25 antibodies, including fragments and derivatives thereof, that bind specifically to human GRBP2 proteins and protein fragments of the present invention or to one or more of the proteins and protein fragments encoded by the isolated human GRBP2 nucleic acids of
30 the present invention. The antibodies of the present invention specifically recognize any or all of linear epitopes, discontinuous epitopes, or conformational

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epitopes of such proteins or protein fragments, either as present on the protein in its native conformation or, in some cases, as present on the proteins as denatured, as, e.g., by solubilization in SDS.

5 In other embodiments, the invention provides antibodies, including fragments and derivatives thereof, the binding of which can be competitively inhibited by one or more of the human GRBP2 proteins and protein fragments of the present invention, or by
10 one or more of the proteins and protein fragments encoded by the isolated human GRBP2 nucleic acids of the present invention.

As used herein, the term "antibody" refers to a polypeptide, at least a portion of which is encoded
15 by at least one immunoglobulin gene, which can bind specifically to a first molecular species, and to fragments or derivatives thereof that remain capable of such specific binding.

By "bind specifically" and "specific binding"
20 is here intended the ability of the antibody to bind to a first molecular species in preference to binding to other molecular species with which the antibody and first molecular species are admixed. An antibody is said specifically to "recognize" a first molecular
25 species when it can bind specifically to that first molecular species.

As is well known in the art, the degree to which an antibody can discriminate as among molecular species in a mixture will depend, in part, upon the
30 conformational relatedness of the species in the mixture; typically, the antibodies of the present invention will discriminate over adventitious binding to non-human GRBP2 proteins by at least two-fold, more typically by at least 5-fold, typically by more than

10-fold, 25-fold, 50-fold, 75-fold, and often by more than 100-fold, and on occasion by more than 500-fold or 1000-fold. When used to detect the proteins or protein fragments of the present invention, the antibody of the
5 present invention is sufficiently specific when it can be used to determine the presence of the protein of the present invention in human serum.

Typically, the affinity or avidity of an antibody (or antibody multimer, as in the case of an
10 IgM pentamer) of the present invention for a protein or protein fragment of the present invention will be at least about 1×10^{-6} molar (M), typically at least about 5×10^{-7} M, usefully at least about 1×10^{-7} M, with affinities and avidities of at least 1×10^{-8} M,
15 5×10^{-9} M, and 1×10^{-10} M proving especially useful.

The antibodies of the present invention can be naturally-occurring forms, such as IgG, IgM, IgD, IgE, and IgA, from any mammalian species.

Human antibodies can, but will infrequently,
20 be drawn directly from human donors or human cells. In such case, antibodies to the proteins of the present invention will typically have resulted from fortuitous immunization, such as autoimmune immunization, with the protein or protein fragments of the present invention.
25 Such antibodies will typically, but will not invariably, be polyclonal.

Human antibodies are more frequently obtained using transgenic animals that express human
immunoglobulin genes, which transgenic animals can be
30 affirmatively immunized with the protein immunogen of the present invention. Human Ig-transgenic mice capable of producing human antibodies and methods of producing human antibodies therefrom upon specific immunization are described, inter alia, in U.S. Patent

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Nos. 6,162,963; 6,150,584; 6,114,598; 6,075,181;
5,939,598; 5,877,397; 5,874,299; 5,814,318; 5,789,650;
5,770,429; 5,661,016; 5,633,425; 5,625,126; 5,569,825;
5,545,807; 5,545,806, and 5,591,669, the disclosures of
5 which are incorporated herein by reference in their
entireties. Such antibodies are typically monoclonal,
and are typically produced using techniques developed
for production of murine antibodies.

Human antibodies are particularly useful, and
10 often preferred, when the antibodies of the present
invention are to be administered to human beings as *in*
vivo diagnostic or therapeutic agents, since recipient
immune response to the administered antibody will often
be substantially less than that occasioned by
15 administration of an antibody derived from another
species, such as mouse.

IgG, IgM, IgD, IgE and IgA antibodies of the
present invention are also usefully obtained from other
mammalian species, including rodents - typically mouse,
20 but also rat, guinea pig, and hamster - lagomorphs,
typically rabbits, and also larger mammals, such as
sheep, goats, cows, and horses. In such cases, as with
the transgenic human-antibody-producing non-human
mammals, fortuitous immunization is not required, and
25 the non-human mammal is typically affirmatively
immunized, according to standard immunization
protocols, with the protein or protein fragment of the
present invention.

As discussed above, virtually all fragments
30 of 8 or more contiguous amino acids of the proteins of
the present invention can be used effectively as
immunogens when conjugated to a carrier, typically a
protein such as bovine thyroglobulin, keyhole limpet
hemocyanin, or bovine serum albumin, conveniently using

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a bifunctional linker such as those described elsewhere above, which discussion is incorporated by reference here.

- Immunogenicity can also be conferred by
- 5 fusion of the proteins and protein fragments of the present invention to other moieties.

For example, peptides of the present invention can be produced by solid phase synthesis on a branched polylysine core matrix; these multiple

10 antigenic peptides (MAPs) provide high purity, increased avidity, accurate chemical definition and improved safety in vaccine development. Tam et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:5409-5413 (1988); Posnett et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 263, 1719-1725 (1988).

- 15 Protocols for immunizing non-human mammals are well-established in the art, Harlow et al. (eds.), Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1998) (ISBN: 0879693142); Coligan et al. (eds.), Current Protocols in Immunology, John Wiley &
- 20 Sons, Inc. (2001) (ISBN: 0-471-52276-7); Zola, Monoclonal Antibodies : Preparation and Use of Monoclonal Antibodies and Engineered Antibody Derivatives (Basics: From Background to Bench), Springer Verlag (2000) (ISBN: 0387915907), the
- 25 disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference, and often include multiple immunizations, either with or without adjuvants such as Freund's complete adjuvant and Freund's incomplete adjuvant.

- Antibodies from nonhuman mammals can be
- 30 polyclonal or monoclonal, with polyclonal antibodies having certain advantages in immunohistochemical detection of the proteins of the present invention and monoclonal antibodies having advantages in identifying

and distinguishing particular epitopes of the proteins of the present invention.

- Following immunization, the antibodies of the present invention can be produced using any art-accepted technique. Such techniques are well known in the art, Coligan et al. (eds.), Current Protocols in Immunology, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (2001) (ISBN: 0-471-52276-7); Zola, Monoclonal Antibodies : Preparation and Use of Monoclonal Antibodies and Engineered Antibody Derivatives (Basics: From Background to Bench), Springer Verlag (2000) (ISBN: 0387915907); Howard et al. (eds.), Basic Methods in Antibody Production and Characterization, CRC Press (2000) (ISBN: 0849394457); Harlow et al. (eds.), Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1998) (ISBN: 0879693142); Davis (ed.), Monoclonal Antibody Protocols, Vol. 45, Humana Press (1995) (ISBN: 0896033082); Delves (ed.), Antibody Production: Essential Techniques, John Wiley & Son Ltd (1997) (ISBN: 0471970107); Kenney, Antibody Solution: An Antibody Methods Manual, Chapman & Hall (1997) (ISBN: 0412141914), incorporated herein by reference in their entireties, and thus need not be detailed here.

- Briefly, however, such techniques include, inter alia, production of monoclonal antibodies by hybridomas and expression of antibodies or fragments or derivatives thereof from host cells engineered to express immunoglobulin genes or fragments thereof. These two methods of production are not mutually exclusive: genes encoding antibodies specific for the proteins or protein fragments of the present invention can be cloned from hybridomas and thereafter expressed in other host cells. Nor need the two necessarily be

performed together: e.g., genes encoding antibodies specific for the proteins and protein fragments of the present invention can be cloned directly from B cells known to be specific for the desired protein, as
5 further described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,627,052, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, or from antibody-displaying phage.

Recombinant expression in host cells is particularly useful when fragments or derivatives of
10 the antibodies of the present invention are desired.

Host cells for recombinant antibody production - either whole antibodies, antibody fragments, or antibody derivatives - can be prokaryotic or eukaryotic.

15 Prokaryotic hosts are particularly useful for producing phage displayed antibodies of the present invention.

The technology of phage-displayed antibodies, in which antibody variable region fragments are fused,
20 for example, to the gene III protein (pIII) or gene VIII protein (pVIII) for display on the surface of filamentous phage, such as M13, is by now well-established, Sidhu, Curr. Opin. Biotechnol. 11(6):610-6 (2000); Griffiths *et al.*, Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.
25 9(1):102-8 (1998); Hoogenboom *et al.*, Immunotechnology, 4(1):1-20 (1998); Rader *et al.*, Current Opinion in Biotechnology 8:503-508 (1997); Aujame *et al.*, Human Antibodies 8:155-168 (1997); Hoogenboom, Trends in Biotechnol. 15:62-70 (1997); de Kruif *et al.*, 17:453-
30 455 (1996); Barbas *et al.*, Trends in Biotechnol. 14:230-234 (1996); Winter *et al.*, Ann. Rev. Immunol. 433-455 (1994), and techniques and protocols required to generate, propagate, screen (pan), and use the

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antibody fragments from such libraries have recently been compiled, Barbas et al., Phage Display: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2001) (ISBN 0-87969-546-3); Kay et al. (eds.), Phage Display of Peptides and Proteins: A Laboratory Manual, Academic Press, Inc. (1996); Abelson et al. (eds.), Combinatorial Chemistry, Methods in Enzymology vol. 267, Academic Press (May 1996), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Typically, phage-displayed antibody fragments are scFv fragments or Fab fragments; when desired, full length antibodies can be produced by cloning the variable regions from the displaying phage into a complete antibody and expressing the full length antibody in a further prokaryotic or a eukaryotic host cell.

Eukaryotic cells are also useful for expression of the antibodies, antibody fragments, and antibody derivatives of the present invention.

For example, antibody fragments of the present invention can be produced in *Pichia pastoris*, Takahashi et al., Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem. 64(10):2138-44 (2000); Freyre et al., J. Biotechnol. 76(2-3):157-63 (2000); Fischer et al., Biotechnol. Appl. Biochem. 30 (Pt 2):117-20 (1999); Pennell et al., Res. Immunol. 149(6):599-603 (1998); Eldin et al., J. Immunol. Methods. 201(1):67-75 (1997); and in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, Frenken et al., Res. Immunol. 149(6):589-99 (1998); Shusta et al., Nature Biotechnol. 16(8):773-7 (1998), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Antibodies, including antibody fragments and derivatives, of the present invention can also be produced in insect cells, Li *et al.*, Protein Expr. Purif. 21(1):121-8 (2001); Ailor *et al.*, Biotechnol. Bioeng. 58(2-3):196-203 (1998); Hsu *et al.*, Biotechnol. Prog. 13(1):96-104 (1997); Edelman *et al.*, Immunology 91(1):13-9 (1997); and Nesbit *et al.*, J. Immunol. Methods. 151(1-2):201-8 (1992), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Antibodies and fragments and derivatives thereof of the present invention can also be produced in plant cells, Giddings *et al.*, Nature Biotechnol. 18(11):1151-5 (2000); Gaviolondo *et al.*, Biotechniques 29(1):128-38 (2000); Fischer *et al.*, J. Biol. Regul. Homeost. Agents 14(2):83-92 (2000); Fischer *et al.*, Biotechnol. Appl. Biochem. 30 (Pt 2):113-6 (1999); Fischer *et al.*, Biol. Chem. 380(7-8):825-39 (1999); Russell, Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol. 240:119-38 (1999); and Ma *et al.*, Plant Physiol. 109(2):341-6 (1995), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Mammalian cells useful for recombinant expression of antibodies, antibody fragments, and antibody derivatives of the present invention include CHO cells, COS cells, 293 cells, and myeloma cells.

Verma *et al.*, J. Immunol. Methods 216(1-2):165-81 (1998), review and compare bacterial, yeast, insect and mammalian expression systems for expression of antibodies.

Antibodies of the present invention can also be prepared by cell free translation, as further described in Merk *et al.*, J. Biochem. (Tokyo).

125(2):328-33 (1999) and Ryabova et al., Nature
Biotechnol. 15(1):79-84 (1997), and in the milk of
transgenic animals, as further described in Pollock et
al., J. Immunol. Methods 231(1-2):147-57 (1999), the
5 disclosures of which are incorporated herein by
reference in their entirety.

The invention further provides antibody
fragments that bind specifically to one or more of the
proteins and protein fragments of the present
10 invention, to one or more of the proteins and protein
fragments encoded by the isolated nucleic acids of the
present invention, or the binding of which can be
competitively inhibited by one or more of the proteins
and protein fragments of the present invention or one
15 or more of the proteins and protein fragments encoded
by the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention.

Among such useful fragments are Fab, Fab',
Fv, F(ab)'2, and single chain Fv (scFv) fragments.
Other useful fragments are described in Hudson, Curr.
20 Opin. Biotechnol. 9(4):395-402 (1998).

It is also an aspect of the present invention
to provide antibody derivatives that bind specifically
to one or more of the proteins and protein fragments of
the present invention, to one or more of the proteins
25 and protein fragments encoded by the isolated nucleic
acids of the present invention, or the binding of which
can be competitively inhibited by one or more of the
proteins and protein fragments of the present invention
or one or more of the proteins and protein fragments
30 encoded by the isolated nucleic acids of the present
invention.

Among such useful derivatives are chimeric,
primatized, and humanized antibodies; such derivatives

are less immunogenic in human beings, and thus more suitable for in vivo administration, than are unmodified antibodies from non-human mammalian species.

Chimeric antibodies typically include heavy
5 and/or light chain variable regions (including both CDR
and framework residues) of immunoglobulins of one
species, typically mouse, fused to constant regions of
another species, typically human. See, e.g., U.S. Pat.
No. 5,807,715; Morrison et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci
10 USA.81(21):6851-5 (1984); Sharon et al., Nature
309(5966):364-7 (1984); Takeda et al., Nature
314(6010):452-4 (1985), the disclosures of which are
incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.
Primatized and humanized antibodies typically include
15 heavy and/or light chain CDRs from a murine antibody
grafted into a non-human primate or human antibody V
region framework, usually further comprising a human
constant region, Riechmann et al., Nature
332(6162):323-7 (1988); Co et al., Nature
20 351(6326):501-2 (1991); U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,054,297;
5,821,337; 5,770,196; 5,766,886; 5,821,123; 5,869,619;
6,180,377; 6,013,256; 5,693,761; and 6,180,370, the
disclosures of which are incorporated herein by
reference in their entireties.

25 Other useful antibody derivatives of the invention include heteromeric antibody complexes and antibody fusions, such as diabodies (bispecific antibodies), single-chain diabodies, and intrabodies.

The antibodies of the present invention, including fragments and derivatives thereof, can usefully be labeled. It is, therefore, another aspect of the present invention to provide labeled antibodies that bind specifically to one or more of the proteins

and protein fragments of the present invention, to one or more of the proteins and protein fragments encoded by the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention, or the binding of which can be competitively inhibited
5 by one or more of the proteins and protein fragments of the present invention or one or more of the proteins and protein fragments encoded by the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention.

The choice of label depends, in part, upon
10 the desired use.

For example, when the antibodies of the present invention are used for immunohistochemical staining of tissue samples, the label can usefully be an enzyme that catalyzes production and local
15 deposition of a detectable product.

Enzymes typically conjugated to antibodies to permit their immunohistochemical visualization are well known, and include alkaline phosphatase, β -galactosidase, glucose oxidase, horseradish peroxidase
20 (HRP), and urease. Typical substrates for production and deposition of visually detectable products include o-nitrophenyl-beta-D-galactopyranoside (ONPG); o-phenylenediamine dihydrochloride (OPD); p-nitrophenyl phosphate (PNPP); p-Nitrophenyl-beta-D-
25 galactopyranoside (PNPG); 3',3'Diaminobenzidine (DAB); 3-Amino-9-ethylcarbazole (AEC); 4-Chloro-1-naphthol (CN); 5-Bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl-phosphate (BCIP); ABTS®; BlueGal; iodonitrotetrazolium (INT); nitroblue tetrazolium chloride (NBT); phenazine methosulfate
30 (PMS); phenolphthalein monophosphate (PMP); tetramethyl benzidine (TMB); tetranitroblue tetrazolium (TNBT); X-Gal; X-Gluc; and X-Glucoside.

Other substrates can be used to produce products for local deposition that are luminescent.

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For example, in the presence of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), horseradish peroxidase (HRP) can catalyze the oxidation of cyclic diacylhydrazides, such as luminol. Immediately following the oxidation, the luminol is in an excited state (intermediate reaction product), which decays to the ground state by emitting light. Strong enhancement of the light emission is produced by enhancers, such as phenolic compounds. Advantages include high sensitivity, high resolution, and rapid detection without radioactivity and requiring only small amounts of antibody. See, e.g., Thorpe et al., Methods Enzymol. 133:331-53 (1986); Kricka et al., J. Immunoassay 17(1):67-83 (1996); and Lundqvist et al., J. Biolumin. Chemilumin. 10(6):353-9 (1995), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Kits for such enhanced chemiluminescent detection (ECL) are available commercially.

The antibodies can also be labeled using colloidal gold.

As another example, when the antibodies of the present invention are used, e.g., for flow cytometric detection, for scanning laser cytometric detection, or for fluorescent immunoassay, they can usefully be labeled with fluorophores.

There are a wide variety of fluorophore labels that can usefully be attached to the antibodies of the present invention.

For flow cytometric applications, both for extracellular detection and for intracellular detection, common useful fluorophores can be fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC), allophycocyanin (APC), R-phycoerythrin (PE), peridinin chlorophyll

protein (PerCP), Texas Red, Cy3, Cy5, fluorescence resonance energy tandem fluorophores such as PerCP-Cy5.5, PE-Cy5, PE-Cy5.5, PE-Cy7, PE-Texas Red, and APC-Cy7.

5 Other fluorophores include, inter alia, Alexa Fluor® 350, Alexa Fluor® 488, Alexa Fluor® 532, Alexa Fluor® 546, Alexa Fluor® 568, Alexa Fluor® 594, Alexa Fluor® 647 (monoclonal antibody labeling kits available from Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR, USA), BODIPY
10 dyes, such as BODIPY 493/503, BODIPY FL, BODIPY R6G, BODIPY 530/550, BODIPY TMR, BODIPY 558/568, BODIPY 558/568, BODIPY 564/570, BODIPY 576/589, BODIPY 581/591, BODIPY TR, BODIPY 630/650, BODIPY 650/665, Cascade Blue, Cascade Yellow, Dansyl, lissamine
15 rhodamine B, Marina Blue, Oregon Green 488, Oregon Green 514, Pacific Blue, rhodamine 6G, rhodamine green, rhodamine red, tetramethylrhodamine, Texas Red (available from Molecular Probes, Inc., Eugene, OR, USA), and Cy2, Cy3, Cy3.5, Cy5, Cy5.5, Cy7, all of
20 which are also useful for fluorescently labeling the antibodies of the present invention.

For secondary detection using labeled avidin, streptavidin, captavidin or neutravidin, the antibodies of the present invention can usefully be labeled with
25 biotin.

When the antibodies of the present invention are used, e.g., for western blotting applications, they can usefully be labeled with radioisotopes, such as ^{33}P , ^{32}P , ^{35}S , ^3H , and ^{125}I .

30 As another example, when the antibodies of the present invention are used for radioimmunotherapy, the label can usefully be ^{228}Th , ^{227}Ac , ^{225}Ac , ^{223}Ra , ^{213}Bi , ^{212}Pb , ^{212}Bi , ^{211}At , ^{203}Pb , ^{194}Os , ^{188}Re , ^{186}Re ,

153Sm, 149Tb, 131I, 125I, 111In, 105Rh, 99mTc, 97Ru,
90Y, 90Sr, 88Y, 72Se, 67Cu, or 47Sc.

As another example, when the antibodies of
the present invention are to be used for *in vivo*
5 diagnostic use, they can be rendered detectable by
conjugation to MRI contrast agents, such as gadolinium
diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), Lauffer *et*
al., Radiology 207(2):529-38 (1998), or by
radioisotopic labeling

10 As would be understood, use of the labels
described above is not restricted to the application as
for which they were mentioned.

The antibodies of the present invention,
including fragments and derivatives thereof, can also
15 be conjugated to toxins, in order to target the toxin's
ablative action to cells that display and/or express
the proteins of the present invention. Commonly, the
antibody in such immunotoxins is conjugated to
Pseudomonas exotoxin A, diphtheria toxin, shiga toxin
20 A, anthrax toxin lethal factor, or ricin. See Hall
(*ed.*), Immunotoxin Methods and Protocols (Methods in
Molecular Biology, Vol 166), Humana Press (2000)
(ISBN:0896037754); and Frankel *et al.* (*eds.*), Clinical
Applications of Immunotoxins, Springer-Verlag New York,
25 Incorporated (1998) (ISBN:3540640975), the disclosures
of which are incorporated herein by reference in their
entireties, for review.

The antibodies of the present invention can
usefully be attached to a substrate, and it is,
30 therefore, another aspect of the invention to provide
antibodies that bind specifically to one or more of the
proteins and protein fragments of the present
invention, to one or more of the proteins and protein

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5 or more of the proteins and protein fragments encoded
by the isolated nucleic acids of the present invention,
attached to a substrate.

Substrates can be porous or nonporous, planar or nonplanar.

10 For example, the antibodies of the present invention can usefully be conjugated to filtration media, such as NHS-activated Sepharose or CNBr-activated Sepharose for purposes of immunoaffinity chromatography.

15 For example, the antibodies of the present invention can usefully be attached to paramagnetic microspheres, typically by biotin-streptavidin interaction, which microsphere can then be used for isolation of cells that express or display the proteins
20 of the present invention. As another example, the antibodies of the present invention can usefully be attached to the surface of a microtiter plate for ELISA.

As noted above, the antibodies of the present
25 invention can be produced in prokaryotic and eukaryotic
cells. It is, therefore, another aspect of the present
invention to provide cells that express the antibodies
of the present invention, including hybridoma cells, B
cells, plasma cells, and host cells recombinantly
30 modified to express the antibodies of the present
invention.

In yet a further aspect, the present invention provides aptamers evolved to bind specifically to one or more of the proteins and protein

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Human GRBP2 Antibodies

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Such antibodies have particular utility in assays and purification protocols in which the GRBP2 major form must be distinguished from the BRBP2 minor form.

In a third series of antibody embodiments, the invention provides antibodies, both polyclonal and monoclonal, and fragments and derivatives thereof, the specific binding of which can be competitively inhibited by the isolated proteins and polypeptides of the present invention.

In other embodiments, the invention further provides the above-described antibodies detectably labeled, and in yet other embodiments, provides the above-described antibodies attached to a substrate.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

Human GRBP2 protein is implicated in oncogenesis. Thus, compositions comprising nucleic acids, proteins, and antibodies of the present invention can be administered as reagents for the diagnosis and therapy of tumors.

Accordingly, in another aspect, the invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the nucleic acids, nucleic acid fragments, proteins, protein fusions, protein fragments, antibodies, antibody derivatives, and antibody fragments of the present invention.

Such a composition typically contains from about 0.1 to 90% by weight (such as 1 to 20% or 1 to 10%) of a therapeutic agent of the invention in a pharmaceutically accepted carrier. Solid formulations of the compositions for oral administration can contain suitable carriers or excipients, such as corn starch, gelatin, lactose, acacia, sucrose, microcrystalline

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- cellulose, kaolin, mannitol, dicalcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, sodium chloride, or alginic acid. Disintegrators that can be used include, without limitation, microcrystalline cellulose, corn starch, sodium starch glycolate, and alginic acid. Tablet binders that can be used include acacia, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone (Povidone™), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, sucrose, starch and ethylcellulose.
- Lubricants that can be used include magnesium stearates, stearic acid, silicone fluid, talc, waxes, oils, and colloidal silica.
- Liquid formulations of the compositions for oral administration prepared in water or other aqueous vehicles can contain various suspending agents such as methylcellulose, alginates, tragacanth, pectin, kelgin, carrageenan, acacia, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and polyvinyl alcohol. The liquid formulations can also include solutions, emulsions, syrups and elixirs containing, together with the active compound(s), wetting agents, sweeteners, and coloring and flavoring agents. Various liquid and powder formulations can be prepared by conventional methods for inhalation into the lungs of the mammal to be treated.
- Injectable formulations of the compositions can contain various carriers such as vegetable oils, dimethylacetamide, dimethylformamide, ethyl lactate, ethyl carbonate, isopropyl myristate, ethanol, polyols (glycerol, propylene glycol, liquid polyethylene glycol, and the like). For intravenous injections, water soluble versions of the compounds can be administered by the drip method, whereby a pharmaceutical formulation containing the antifungal agent and a physiologically acceptable excipient is

5 of a suitable soluble salt form of the compounds, can
be dissolved and administered in a pharmaceutical
excipient such as Water-for-Injection, 0.9% saline, or
5% glucose solution. A suitable insoluble form of the
compound can be prepared and administered as a
10 suspension in an aqueous base or a pharmaceutically
acceptable oil base, such as an ester of a long chain
fatty acid (e.g., ethyl oleate).

15 ingredient from about 1 to 20%, e.g., 5 to 10%, in a
carrier such as a pharmaceutical cream base. Various
formulations for topical use include drops, tinctures,
lotions, creams, solutions, and ointments containing
the active ingredient and various supports and
20 vehicles. The optimal percentage of the therapeutic
agent in each pharmaceutical formulation varies
according to the formulation itself and the therapeutic
effect desired in the specific pathologies and
correlated therapeutic regimens.

25 Inhalation and transdermal formulations can
also readily be prepared.

Pharmaceutical formulation is a well-established art, and is further described in Gennaro (ed.), Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 20th ed., Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (2000) (ISBN: 0683306472); and Ansel et al., Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems, 7th ed., Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Publishers (1999) (ISBN:

0683305727), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Conventional methods, known to those of ordinary skill in the art of medicine, can be used to administer the pharmaceutical formulation(s) to the patient.

Typically, the pharmaceutical formulation will be administered to the patient by applying to the skin of the patient a transdermal patch containing the pharmaceutical formulation, and leaving the patch in contact with the patient's skin (generally for 1 to 5 hours per patch). Other transdermal routes of administration (e.g., through use of a topically applied cream, ointment, or the like) can be used by applying conventional techniques. The pharmaceutical formulation(s) can also be administered via other conventional routes (e.g., enteral, subcutaneous, intrapulmonary, transmucosal, intraperitoneal, intrauterine, sublingual, intrathecal, or intramuscular routes) by using standard methods. In addition, the pharmaceutical formulations can be administered to the patient via injectable depot routes of administration such as by using 1-, 3-, or 6-month depot injectable or biodegradable materials and methods.

Regardless of the route of administration, the therapeutic protein or antibody agent typically is administered at a daily dosage of 0.01 mg to 30 mg/kg of body weight of the patient (e.g., 1mg/kg to 5 mg/kg). The pharmaceutical formulation can be administered in multiple doses per day, if desired, to achieve the total desired daily dose.

The effectiveness of the method of treatment can be assessed by monitoring the patient for known signs or symptoms of a disorder.

TRANSGENIC ANIMALS AND CELLS

5 In another aspect, the invention provides transgenic cells and non-human organisms comprising human GRBP2 isoform nucleic acids, and transgenic cells and non-human organisms with targeted disruption of the endogenous orthologue of the human GRBP2 gene.

10 The cells can be embryonic stem cells or somatic cells. The transgenic non-human organisms can be chimeric, nonchimeric heterozygotes, and nonchimeric homozygotes.

DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

15 The nucleic acids of the present invention can be used as nucleic acid probes to assess the levels of human GRBP2 mRNA in cells, and antibodies of the present invention can be used to assess the expression levels of human GRBP2 proteins in cells to diagnose
20 oncogenesis.

EXAMPLE 1

Identification and Characterization of cDNAs Encoding Human GRBP2 Proteins

25 Predicating our gene discovery efforts on use of genome-derived single exon probes and hybridization to genome-derived single exon microarrays - an approach that we have previously demonstrated will readily identify novel genes that have proven refractory to

mRNA-based identification efforts - we identified an exon in raw human genomic sequence that is particularly expressed in human kidney, adrenal, adult liver, bone marrow, brain, fetal liver, heart, hela, lung, placenta, prostate and skeletal muscle.

Briefly, bioinformatic algorithms were applied to human genomic sequence data to identify putative exons. Each of the predicted exons was amplified from genomic DNA, typically centering the putative coding sequence within a larger amplicon that included flanking noncoding sequence. These genome-derived single exon probes were arrayed on a support and expression of the bioinformatically predicted exons assessed through a series of simultaneous two-color hybridizations to the genome-derived single exon microarrays.

The approach and procedures are further described in detail in Penn et al., "Mining the Human Genome using Microarrays of Open Reading Frames," Nature Genetics 26:315-318 (2000); commonly owned and copending U.S. patent application nos. 09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001, 09/774,203, filed January 29, 2001 and 09/632,366, filed August 3, 2000, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Using a graphical display particularly designed to facilitate computerized query of the resulting exon-specific expression data, as further described in commonly owned and copending U.S. patent application no. 09/774,203, filed January 29, 2001, a number of exons were identified that are expressed in all the human tissues tested; subsequent analysis revealed that the exons belong to the same gene. Further details of procedures, and hybridization

results on exons 2, 3, 6, and 11, are set forth in commonly owned and copending U.S. patent application serial nos. 09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Tables 1 and 2 summarize the microarray expression data obtained using genome-derived single exon probes corresponding to exons 2, 3, 6, 11, and 15. Each probe was completely sequenced on both strands prior to its use on a genome-derived single exon microarray; sequencing confirmed the exact chemical structure of each probe. An added benefit of sequencing is that it placed us in possession of a set of single base-incremented fragments of the sequenced nucleic acid, starting from the sequencing primer's 3' OH. (Since the single exon probes were first obtained by PCR amplification from genomic DNA, we were of course additionally in possession of an even larger set of single base incremented fragments of each of the single exon probes, each fragment corresponding to an extension product from one of the two amplification primers.)

Signals and expression ratios are normalized values measured and calculated as further described in commonly owned and copending U.S. patent application serial nos. 09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001, 09/774,203, filed January 29, 2001 and 09/632,366, filed August 3, 2000.

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Table 1 Expression Analysis Genome-Derived Single Exon Microarray (signal)					
	Amp 2362 3	Amp 2362 1	Amp 3115 7	Amp 3116 0	Amp 3116 1

	(exon_2)	(exon_3)	(exon_6)	(exon_11)	(exon_15)
ADRENAL	1.79	1.42	2.05	1.53	0.46
ADULT LIVER	2.29	2.81	n/d	n/d	n/d
BONE MARROW	1.97	1.15	1.26	1.11	0.42
BRAIN	2.10	1.53	1.97	1.47	0.89
FETAL LIVER	2.01	1.17	2.02	1.68	0.82
HEART	1.78	1.22	1.74	1.50	0.34
HELA	3.23	2.27	2.41	1.52	0.69
KIDNEY	2.50	1.9	3.06	2.94	2.26
LUNG	2.15	n/d	2.46	1.63	n/d
PLACENTA	2.11	1.37	n/d	2.09	0.78
PROSTATE	1.88	1.49	4.32	3.35	4.78
SKELETAL MUSCLE	1.87	1.12	1.62	1.01	n/d

Table 2
Expression Analysis
Genome-Derived Single Exon Microarray (ratio)

	Amp_2362 3 (exon_2)	Amp_2362 1 (exon_3)	Amp_3115 7 (exon_6)	Amp_3116 0 (exon_11)	Amp_3116 1 (exon_15)
ADRENAL	1.12	-1.10	-1.15	-1.25	-1.38
ADULT LIVER	-1.06	n/d	n/d	n/d	n/d
BONE MARROW	-1.16	-1.08	n/d	-1.40	-4.50
BRAIN	1.00	1.20	1.27	-1.14	-1.16
FETAL LIVER	1.14	-1.08	-1.08	-1.08	1.26
HEART	-1.10	-1.09	-1.33	-1.25	-2.04
HELA	-1.05	-1.02	1.02	-1.19	n/d
KIDNEY	1.00	-1.14	n/d	n/d	n/d
LUNG	-1.02	n/d	n/d	1.10	-1.23
PLACENTA	1.05	1.07	-1.17	1.09	n/d

Table 2 Expression Analysis Genome-Derived Single Exon Microarray (ratio)					
PROSTATE	1.03	1.04	1.79	1.18	n/d
SKELETAL MUSCLE	-1.09	-1.36	-1.42	n/d	n/d

- As shown in Tables 1 and 2, significant
- 5 expression of exons 2, 3, 6, 11, and 15 was seen in kidney, adrenal, adult liver, bone marrow, brain, fetal liver, heart, hela, lung, placenta, prostate and skeletal muscle. Specific expression was further confirmed by northern blot analysis (see below).
- 10 Marathon-Ready™ lung cDNA (Clontech Laboratories, Palo Alto, CA, USA) was used as a substrate for standard RACE (rapid amplification of cDNA ends) to obtain a cDNA clone that spans 3.5 kilobases and appears to contain the entire coding
- 15 region of the gene to which the exons contribute; for reasons described below, we termed this cDNA human GRBP2. Marathon-Ready™ cDNAs are adaptor-ligated double stranded cDNAs suitable for 3' and 5' RACE. Chenchik et al., BioTechniques 21:526-532 (1996);
- 20 Chenchik et al., CLONTECHNIQUES X(1):5-8 (January 1995). RACE techniques are described, inter alia, in the Marathon-Ready™ cDNA User Manual (Clontech Labs., Palo Alto, CA, USA, March 30, 2000, Part No. PT1156-1 (PR03517)), Ausubel et al. (eds.), Short Protocols in
- 25 Molecular Biology : A Compendium of Methods from Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, 4th edition (April 1999), John Wiley & Sons (ISBN: 047132938X) and Sambrook et al. (eds.), Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (3rd ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press
- 30 (2000) (ISBN: 0879695773), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Four overlapping RACE products were cloned that together contained the complete sequence of GRBP2.

The human GRBP2 cDNA (in four overlapping fragments) was sequenced on both strands using a MegaBace™ sequencer (Molecular Dynamics, Inc., Sunnyvale, CA, USA). Sequencing both strands provided us with the exact chemical structure of the cDNA, which is shown in FIG. 3 and further presented in the SEQUENCE LISTING as SEQ ID NO: 1, and placed us in actual physical possession of the entire set of single-base incremented fragments of the sequenced clone, starting at the 5' and 3' termini.

The human GRBP2 cDNA was deposited at the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) on June 27, 15 2001 as four overlapping cDNA fragments collectively accorded accession number _____.

As shown in FIG. 3, the human GRBP2 cDNA spans 3484 nucleotides and contains an open reading frame from nucleotide 21 through and including nt 2081 (inclusive of termination codon), predicting a protein of 686 amino acids with a (post-translationally unmodified) molecular weight of 77.0 kD. The clone appears full length, with the reading frame opening with a methionine and terminating with a stop codon.

25 BLAST query of genomic sequence identified
two BACS, spanning 88 kb, that constitute the minimum
set of clones encompassing the cDNA sequence. Based
upon the known origin of the BACs (GenBank accession
numbers AC008521.5, AC011449.6), the human GRBP2 gene
30 can be mapped to human chromosome 19q12.

Comparison of the cDNA and genomic sequences identified 15 exons. Exon organization is listed in Table 3.

Table 3 GRBP2 Exon Structure			
Exon no.	cdNA range	genomic range	BAC accession
1	1-89	48145-48057	AC008521.5
2	90-205	27637-27522	
3	206-336	9905-9777	
4	337-410	4918-4844	
5	411-488	116091-116014	AC011449.6
6	489-613	115169-115046	
7	614-780	111547-111381	
8	781-968	106367-106180	
9	969-1125	105770-105614	
10	1126-1245	103073-102953	
11	1246-1440	99587-99393	
12	1441-1517	97420-97344	
13	1518-1664	95336-95190	
14	1665-1820	94036-93881	
15	1821-3484	83623-81960	

FIG. 2 schematizes the exon organization of the human GRBP2 clone.

At the top is shown the two bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs), with GenBank accession numbers, that span the human GRBP2 locus. The genome-derived single-exon probe first used to demonstrate expression from this locus, as further described in commonly owned provisional patent application no.

09/864,761, filed May 23, 2001, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, is shown below the BACs and labeled "500". The 500 bp probe includes sequence drawn solely from exon 11.

- 5 As shown in FIG. 2, human GRBP2, encoding a protein of 686 amino acids, comprises exons 1 - 15. Predicted molecular weight, prior to any post-translational modification, is 77.0 kD.

- The sequence of the human GRBP2 cDNA was used
10 as a BLAST query into the GenBank nr and dbEst databases. The nr database includes all non-redundant GenBank coding sequence translations, sequences derived from the 3-dimensional structures in the Brookhaven Protein Data Bank (PDB), sequences from SwissProt,
15 sequences from the protein information resource (PIR), and sequences from protein research foundation (PRF). The dbEst (database of expressed sequence tags) includes ESTs, short, single pass read cDNA (mRNA) sequences, and cDNA sequences from differential display
20 experiments and RACE experiments.

 BLAST search identified multiple human and mouse ESTs, seven ESTs from cow, three from pig as having sequence closely related to GRBP2.

- Globally, the human GRBP2 protein resembles
25 mouse GRBP1 (46 % amino acid identity and 61 % amino acid similarity over 583 amino acids); and more closely resembles a putative mouse gene (GenBank accession: BAB23615, 85 % amino acid identity and 91 % amino acid similarity over 686 amino acids).

- 30 Motif searches using Pfam (<http://pfam.wustl.edu>), SMART (<http://smart.embl-heidelberg.de>), and PROSITE pattern and profile databases (<http://www.expasy.ch/prosite>), identified

09805040.052001

several known domains shared with mouse Grbp1 and Grbp2.

FIG. 1 shows the domain structure of human GRBP2 protein.

5 As schematized in FIG. 1, the newly isolated gene product shares certain protein domains and an overall structural organization with mouse Grbp1 and Grbp2. The shared structural features strongly imply
10 to that of mouse Grbp1 as a putative adaptor protein that interacts with both the small GTPase Rho as well as elements of the actin cytoskeleton, with a potential role as a proto-oncogene/oncogene.

Like mouse Grbp1, human GRBP2 contains HR1
15 and PDZ domains: the HR1 domain, which functions as a Rho-binding region; the PDZ domain mediates protein-protein interactions with other PDZ domain-containing proteins. In human GRBP2, the HR1 domain occurs at residues 38 - 98, while the PDZ domain occurs at
20 residues 513 - 594.

Possession of the genomic sequence permitted search for promoter and other control sequences for the human GRBP2 gene.

A putative transcriptional control region,
25 inclusive of promoter and downstream elements, was defined as 1 kb around the transcription start site, itself defined as the first nucleotide of the human GRBP2 cDNA clone. The region, drawn from sequence of BAC AC008521.5 has the sequence given in SEQ ID NO: 38,
30 which lists 1000 nucleotides before the transcription start site.

Transcription factor binding sites were identified using a web based program (<http://motif.genome.ad.jp/>), including a binding site

for MZF1 (917-924 and 927-934 bp), for cap (cap signal for transcription initiation, 969-976 and 983-990 bp), for SP1 (836-845, 915-924, and 937-946 bp, with numbering according to SEQ ID NO: 38), amongst others.

5 We have thus identified a newly described human gene, that shares certain protein domains and an overall structural organization with Grbp1. The shared structural features strongly imply that the human GRBP2 protein plays a role similar to Grbp1, as a putative
10 adaptor protein and proto-oncogene/oncogene, making the human GRBP2 proteins and nucleic acids clinically useful diagnostic markers and potential therapeutic agents for cancer.

EXAMPLE 2

15 Northern blot analysis of human GRBP2 expression

Northern blot analysis confirmed and extended the expression profile of the human GRBP2 gene as determined by microarray experiments (see above). A cDNA probe corresponding to nucleotides 416 -1356 of
20 human GRBP2A was generated by random priming incorporation of ³²P-dCTP in the DNA using a PRIME-IT II kit (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The probe was hybridized to northern blots of poly-A RNA from several adult tissues
25 (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) and washed to remove unbound probes under standard conditions (as Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (3rd ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (2001). Blots were subsequently exposed to phosphor screens and imaged with
30 a Typhoon™ imager and Imagequant™ software (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA). Expression of GRBP2 was detected in lung, placenta, small intestine, liver,

0005040-062901
106290-0005040

kidney, colon, skeletal muscle, heart, and brain, but was very low in spleen, thymus or blood leukocytes (Table 4).

5

Table 4
Northern blot analysis of GRBP2 expression

sample	fold-difference
blood leukocytes	1.0
lung	2.5
10 placenta	6.6
small intestine	2.2
liver	12.0
kidney	29.7
spleen	1.2
15 thymus	1.0
colon	12.6
skeletal muscle	1.5
heart	3.7
brain	5.0

20

EXAMPLE 3
RT-PCR Confirms that AX077672.1
Is at Most a Minor Form

Primers corresponding to the alternative exons 1 and 2 of AX077672 (primer set 1: forward primer

25 5'GATTGGCAGCCACGACATCCCAT [SEQ ID NO:177]; reverse primer 5' GAGGACGACTGCAAAGTCGACGT [SEQ ID NO:178]) were used in RT-PCR experiments with RNA template from brain, liver, testis, skeletal muscle, and bone marrow. A second primer set (primer set 2: forward primer

30 5'TCCTGGAACATTACAGTGAACGATG [SEQ ID NO:179] and reverse primer 5'TGCGGCACACAGCACCTTCTGTAG [SEQ ID NO:180])

corresponding to the central portion of the gene were used in parallel experiments. PCR reactions were carried out under standard PCR conditions (Sambrook et al., 2001) and according to the following PCR
5 parameters: 94 °C , 20 seconds; 65 °C, 20 seconds; 72 °C, 60 seconds, for 35 cycles. Products were visualized by gel electrophoresis and imaging with a Typhoon fluorimager (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA). While PCR product was readily detected for primer
10 set 2 in brain, liver, and testis, only a small amount of product was generated with primer set 1 in brain and testis. Cloning and sequencing of the PCR product from brain was carried out under standard conditions and revealed that the product does not correspond to the
15 alternative 5' exons 1 and 2 reported in AX077672. Such non-specific amplification indicates that exon 1 of AX077672, constitutes a minor fraction of the human GRBP2 mRNA population.

20

EXAMPLE 4
Preparation and Labeling of
Useful Fragments of Human GRBP2

Useful fragments of human GRBP2 are produced by PCR, using standard techniques, or solid phase
25 chemical synthesis using an automated nucleic acid synthesizer. Each fragment is sequenced, confirming the exact chemical structure thereof.

The exact chemical structure of preferred fragments is provided in the attached SEQUENCE LISTING,
30 the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The following summary identifies the structures that are more fully described in the SEQUENCE LISTING:

```

SEQ ID NO: 1
    (nt, assembled consensus full length GRBP2 cDNA)
SEQ ID NO: 2
    (nt, cDNA ORF)
5 SEQ ID NO: 3
    (aa, full length protein)
SEQ ID NO: 4
    (nt, (nt 1 - 89) portion of GRBP2)
SEQ ID NO: 5
10    (nt, 5' UT portion of SEQ ID NO: 4)
SEQ ID NO: 6
    (nt, coding region of SEQ ID NO: 4)
SEQ ID NO: 7
    (aa, residues 1 - 23; CDS entirely within SEQ ID
15    NO: 6)
SEQ ID NO: 8 - 22
    (nt, exon 1 - 15 (from genomic sequence))
SEQ ID NO: 23 - 37
    (nt, 500 bp genomic amplicon centered about exon
20    1- 15)
SEQ ID NO: 38
    (nt, 1000 bp putative promoter)
SEQ ID NOs: 39 - 111
    (nt, 17-mers scanning nt 1 - 89 of human GRBP2)
25 SEQ ID NOs: 112 - 176
    (nt, 25-mers scanning nt 1 - 89 of human GRBP2)
SEQ ID NO: 177
    (nt, primer set 1, forward primer)
SEQ ID NO: 178
30    (nt, primer set 1, reverse primer)
SEQ ID NO: 179
    (nt, primer set 2, forward primer)
SEQ ID NO: 180
    (nt, primer set 2, reverse primer)

```


Upon confirmation of the exact structure, each of the above-described nucleic acids of confirmed structure is recognized to be immediately useful as a human GRBP2-specific probe.

5 For use as labeled nucleic acid probes, the above-described human GRBP2 nucleic acids are separately labeled by random priming. As is well known in the art of molecular biology, random priming places the investigator in possession of a near-complete set
10 of labeled fragments of the template of varying length and varying starting nucleotide.

The labeled probes are used to identify the human GRBP2 gene on a Southern blot, and are used to measure expression of human GRBP2 mRNA on a northern
15 blot and by RT-PCR, using standard techniques.

EXAMPLE 5

Production of human GRBP2 Protein

The full length human GRBP2 cDNA clone is
20 cloned into the mammalian expression vector pcDNA3.1/HISA (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), transfected into COS7 cells, transfectants selected with G418, and protein expression in transfectants confirmed by detection of the anti-Xpress™ epitope
25 according to manufacturer's instructions. Protein is purified using immobilized metal affinity chromatography and vector-encoded protein sequence is then removed with enterokinase, per manufacturer's instructions, followed by gel filtration and/or HPLC.

30 Following epitope tag removal, human GRBP2 protein is present at a concentration of at least 70%, measured on a weight basis with respect to total protein (i.e., w/w), and is free of acrylamide

monomers, bis acrylamide monomers, polyacrylamide and ampholytes. Further HPLC purification provides human GRBP2 protein at a concentration of at least 95%, measured on a weight basis with respect to total
5 protein (i.e., w/w).

EXAMPLE 6

Production of Anti- human GRBP2 Antibody

Purified proteins prepared as in Example 3
10 are conjugated to carrier proteins and used to prepare murine monoclonal antibodies by standard techniques. Initial screening with the unconjugated purified proteins, followed by competitive inhibition screening using peptide fragments of the human GRBP2, identifies
15 monoclonal antibodies with specificity for human GRBP2.

EXAMPLE 7

Use of Human GRBP2 Probes and Antibodies for Diagnosis of Tumor

20 After informed consent is obtained, portions of biopsy samples that had been drawn pursuant to standard diagnostic protocols from patients suspected of neoplasia are further tested (i) for human GRBP2 mRNA levels by quantitative real time PCR amplification
25 and (ii) for human GRBP2 protein levels using anti-human GRBP2 antibodies in a standard ELISA after tissue solubilization.

After definitive diagnosis is established for all patients in the study using standard approaches,
30 including pathologic examination and, where indicated, analysis of further samples obtained by surgical resection, tabulated results demonstrate a statistically significant increase in GRBP2 expression

in neoplasia, with the level of GRBP2 expression directly correlated with adverse outcome.

EXAMPLE 8

- 5 Use of Human GRBP2 Nucleic Acids and Antibodies in Therapy.

Once increase of GRBP2 expression has been detected in patients, GRBP2 antisense RNA or GRBP2 specific antibody is introduced by administration local
10 to the tumor situs, with statistically significant decrease in either (i) tumor size or (ii) rate of tumor progression.

EXAMPLE 9

- 15 Human GRBP2 Disease Associations

Diseases that map to the human GRBP2 chromosomal region are shown in Table 5. Mutations or aberrant expression of human GRBP2 is implicated, *inter alia*, in these diseases.

20

Table 5 Co-mapping diseases		
OMIM No.	name	map location
164953	Oncogene liposarcoma	19p13.2-q13.3
604777	Ichthyosis congenita III	19p12-q12
601764	Benign familial infantile convulsions	19q

25

All patents, patent publications, and other published references mentioned herein are hereby
30 incorporated by reference in their entireties as if

each had been individually and specifically incorporated by reference herein. While preferred illustrative embodiments of the present invention are described, one skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention can be practiced by other than the described embodiments, which are presented for purposes of illustration only and not by way of limitation. The present invention is limited only by the claims that follow.